

San José State University
College of Social Science/Geography
Geography 112: Nations, Cultures, & Territorial Disputes, Section 2, Spring 2015

Instructor: Maureen Kelley
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Office Hours: 1330-1430 Thursdays and by appointment
Class Days/Time: 1500-1745 T
Classroom: SH 311
Prerequisites: Completion of core GE, Satisfaction of Writing Skills Test, Upper division standing
GE/SJSU Studies: Area V: Culture, Civilization & Global Understanding

Course Format:

Course lecture slides, assignments, and selected quizzes will be posted on the Geography 112-Section 2 Canvas web pages. You are responsible for regularly checking the website for the latest information and communication.

Course Description:

This course is a geographic exploration of some of the most pressing contemporary world issues in politics, economy, security, human-environment relations, and the interaction of cultures. Readings, films, in-class exercises and discussion are all used to gain a better understanding of these complex problems and their geographic dimensions. Students will develop their ability to think critically, independently, relationally, and contextually, and to communicate their views effectively, particularly in writing.

Student Learning Objectives:

SLO 1: *Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the US.*

- Readings: ALL
- Essays/Exercises: ALL

SLO2: *Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the US and how they have influenced American culture.*

- Readings: Human Rights, Free Speech, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Iraq & War on Terror, Chemical & Biological Weapons, Climate Change, Biodiversity, Water & Development, Millennium Goals, Sustainable Development
- Essays/Exercises: Essays 1, 4, 5-7; Exercises 1, 2, 4-6

SLO3: Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.

- Readings: ALL
- Essays/Exercises: ALL

Required Text:

Global Issues: Selections from the CQ Researcher. (2014). ISBN #9781483364537.

Required Readings:

Required supplemental readings will be posted on the Canvas website that comes from the *CQ Researcher: Global Issues* website, <http://www.globalissues.org/>

- Anup Shah, [Human Rights Issues](#), *Global Issues*, Updated: October 07, 2013
- Anup Shah, [War on Terror](#), *Global Issues*, Updated: October 07, 2013
- Anup Shah, [Biodiversity](#), *Global Issues*, Updated: January 19, 2014
- Anup Shah, [Water and Development](#), *Global Issues*, Updated: June 06, 2010
- Anup Shah, [Sustainable Development](#), *Global Issues*, Updated: September 28, 2014

Recommended Texts:

Goode's world atlas, 22nd ed. (2014). ISBN #9780321652003.

Course Requirements & Assignments:

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

NOTE that University policy F69-24 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance *per se* shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Writing: The minimum writing requirement for this course is 3000 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline. The writing requirement will be met through a combination of in-class weekly essays, group exercises, and final exam/paper.

Correct use of English is a fundamental requirement for your papers to be graded. If errors in English make it difficult for a grader to understand your sentences, or excessively slow down the grader to mark your technical errors, your paper will be returned to you for further work on its English, and your grade for the paper will be deferred until it is resubmitted with corrected English.

If your assignment is returned for an excessive number of grammatical errors, you will be allowed to rewrite and resubmit it within two weeks of the original due date. If not resubmitted by the end of two weeks, you will receive a zero (0) for the writing assignment.

Essay Homework Assignments: There will be seven one page, double-spaced (300-400 word) responses to the *Global Issues* reading for that prior week's topic and any other materials as assigned. This is not a summary of the reading, but a thoughtful response to the issues discussed by the author, and the questions that I pose to you as your instructor. Please be aware that I will only read and grade the first page of each of your essays. Papers must be turned in *prior to class on Canvas*. Each essay/response is worth 10 points each for a total of 70 points or ~46.7% of the final grade. Detailed instructions for writing the short answer essays will be provided. Please note that while these essays constitute the bulk of your grade, you will not earn an "A" in this course unless your performance in other areas of assessment warrant it.

Final Paper/Exam: There is one additional paper/exam required for this course – a short essay/report (about four pages) based on your learning and understanding of current world events as a result of this class (and other relevant outside experiences). The final paper/exam is worth 20 points or ~13.3% of your final grade.

Class Participation: Plan to attend all class meetings and expect to write in class on most days. Active participation is a vital element of the course. It not only makes the class more interesting and enjoyable but you are also responsible for material discussed during class and you cannot earn an "A" without participating. Your class participation grade will include in-class writing assignments and contributing with a solid effort to group activities. These activities can only be completed in class and cannot be made up except in the case of a documented excused absence. Quality participation also includes volunteering information and ideas to discussions, coming prepared with completed homework assignments, and asking and answering questions. Class participation is worth 60 points or 40% of your final grade.

Grading Policy:

A strong performance in all areas of assessment are necessary to achieve the highest grade in this course. You will not be graded on attendance. However, it is not possible to do well if you are not present in class to join in discussions and to complete assignments, exercises, and quizzes. Assignments submitted to Canvas by the due date and time will be marked down 10% for each day missed. It is your responsibility to inform me in advance if you know you must miss a class for a valid reason. Excused absences refer to illness, family responsibilities and similar necessities. Exceptions to these policies will be made only in the case of officially documented emergencies. Contact me regarding emergencies as soon as possible – before a paper is due rather than after it is already late – so special arrangements may be made.

Extra Credit: There will be one (1) extra credit assignment worth 10 points. It can only be used once and only once. You are to find me in my office and ask, "I found you in your office, can I get my extra credit points?"

Grade Breakdown:

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90 to 100	A Excellent
80 to 89	B Good
70 to 79	C Fair
60 to 69	D Poor
< 60	F Fail

Assignments	Points	% of Total
Essays	70	~46.7
Final Paper	20	~13.3
Class Participation	60	40.0
Total	150	100.0

Classroom Protocol:

We all want to be in a positive learning environment. Course content can be challenging. I expect everyone to be respectful of opinions, other students, and the instructor. I will make every effort to be prepared for class, start and end class on time, and be available during my office hours for help.

I expect my students to be prepared for class, come to class on time, and turn in assignments on time. I expect all students to refrain from reading non-course-related materials during class, no passing notes, no talking, no sleeping, etc. The use of any personal communication devices during class time is not allowed. Computers are allowed for course related work only.

University Policies:

Dropping and Adding: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's *Catalog Policies* section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>.

Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/.

The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>

Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material: University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf> requires students to obtain instructor's

permission to record the course.

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. If you wish to record session, then please see me during my office hours to get my express permission.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Academic Integrity: Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays: San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources: Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college.

Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections: Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring,

strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics.

A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC). Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center: The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics.

To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

SJSU Counseling Services: The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Geography 112: Nations, Cultures, & Territorial Disputes, Spring 2015
(Schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Review Canvas Home Page for more info.)

Week of	Topic/Activities	Readings/Video	Due
01/27/15	Course Introduction In-Class Exercise 1	In-Class Video: <i>BBC News</i>	
02/03/15	Human Rights	Human Rights Issues (Shah) In-Class Video: <i>The Story of Human Rights</i>	Exercise 1
02/10/15	Free Speech In-Class Exercise 2	Chapter 13 (<i>CQ Researcher</i>)	Essay 1
02/17/15	Unrest in the Arab World	Chapter 6 (<i>CQ Researcher</i>) In-Class Video: <i>Arab Spring or Middle East Chaos?</i>	Exercise 2
02/24/15	Islamic Sectarianism In-Class Exercise 3	Chapter 14 (<i>CQ Researcher</i>)	Essay 2
03/03/15	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Chapter 2 (<i>CQ Researcher</i>) In-Class Video: <i>The Shape of the Future</i>	Exercise 3
03/10/15	Iraq & War on Terror	Chapter 3 (<i>CQ Researcher</i>) War on Terror (Shah) In-Class Video: <i>Road to 9/11</i>	Essay 3
03/17/15	Chemical & Biological Weapons	Chapter 1 (<i>CQ Researcher</i>) In-Class Videos: <i>DTRA</i> ; <i>The Amazing World Of War Machines: NBC2</i>	Essay 4
03/24/15	SPRING BREAK		
03/31/15	CESAR CHAVEZ DAY		
04/07/15	Climate Change	Chapter 16 (<i>CQ Researcher</i>) In-Class Video: <i>Are We Changing Planet Earth?</i>	Essay 5
04/14/15	Biodiversity In-Class Exercise 4	Biodiversity (Shah)	Essay 6
04/21/15	Water & Development	Water and Development (Shah) In-Class Video: <i>Blue Gold</i>	Exercise 4
04/28/15	State Capitalism In-Class Exercise 5	Chapter 12 (<i>CQ Researcher</i>)	Essay 7
05/05/15	Millennium Goals In-Class Exercise 6	Chapter 8 (<i>CQ Researcher</i>)	Exercise 5
05/12/15	Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development (Shah) In-Class Video: <i>The Real Dirt on Farmer John</i>	Exercise 6
05/18/15	FINAL EXAM (1445 to 1700, SH 311)	Final Essay (all material covered)	