

San José State University
College of Social Sciences, Geography Department
Course # 26780, GEOG 112 – Nations, Cultures &
Territorial Disputes, Spring 2015

Instructor:	Kerry Rohrmeier, Ph.D.
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Office Hours:	Wednesday 3:30-4:30 pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday & Thursday 12:00-1:15 pm
Classroom:	Clark 224
Prerequisites:	Passing Score on WST Exam, Upper Division Standing, Core Education Completion
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area V

Canvas

All course resources can be found on our GEOG 112 [Canvas](#) webpage after you log into using your 9-digit SJSU ID and password. You are responsible for regularly checking this website for the latest information and communication. Please log in and follow the 'Getting Started' steps.

Course Description

(From Course Catalog) In a world with rapidly diminishing resources new conflicts are emerging based on factors such as ethnicity, economic opportunity, religion, and nationalism. Explore global circumstances leading to conflict. Prerequisite: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended (3 units)

Learning Outcomes

GEOG112 is an Area V course: Culture, Civilization, and Global Understanding meant to provide students with an appreciation for cultures outside the United States. With this

should come increased awareness of how foreign traditions have influenced American culture and its' global interactions. As a geographic survey of pressing contemporary issues – in politics, economy, security, and human-environmental impact - course readings, documentary films, in-class exercises, and discussions will be used to gain greater understanding of complex problems. Students will hone critical, relational, and contextual thinking and be expected to communicate independent views effectively, particularly in written format.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO1 *Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.*

Students will demonstrate understanding through in-class exercises and written examinations.

- CLO2 *Identify the historic context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S., and how they have influenced American culture.*

Students will respond in written essays to documentary films related to cultural traditions and ideas.

- CLO3 *Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.*

Students will present independent research on a chosen example.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Required: *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher* (2014 ed.) by Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1-4833-6453-7. Past editions **will not** be accepted because content has changed.

Recommended: A current world atlas.

Course Requirements and 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Grading Policy

Students will be scored on participation, group discussion, and written assignments.

- Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet at the beginning of each lecture session. It will be your responsibility to be sure your name is not missed on the sign-in sheet. Active, engaged participation in the lecture discussion is imperative to your overall grade in this course (50% of your total grade), and so good attendance is expected.
- Groups of four students will be tasked to facilitate discussion of selected textbook chapters. This will include guiding classmate understanding, providing additional supplementary materials/readings, and creation of critical analysis discussion questions that must be instructor approved ahead of time. Students within each group will earn the same score and will be graded according to the Facilitated Discussion Rubric posted to Canvas; there are 100 points possible. Students will be asked to assess each team member's role and performance in addition to the overall instructor review.
- Four or five documentary films will be shown in this course. Two times during the term you are to demonstrate in writing how you have thought critically about narratives or images seen in a film from a global geography/social sciences context. Each essay must have 3 typed pages (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins on all sides) summarizing new facts gained along with a thought-provoking critique of the film. Essays must include a total word count noted at the end (750 words minimum).
- A Review Article is a concise paper, usually written by an academic journal editor that summarizes, compares, and contrasts all recent findings on a specific topic or theme. To earn 20% of your total grade this term you must create a 500-word review article tying together any two or more textbook chapters covered this term. Your article must be one typed page (single-spaced, 12-point times new roman font with no more than 1" margins on all sides) and will be graded pursuant to the Review Article rubric posted to Canvas.
- The Greenbook final exam is a single in-class essay question. You must clearly support and defend in a written essay what you have gained from this course and how you might apply it to your postgraduate goals. Why should this merit 100 points (10%) of your total grade? It will be up to you to determine and track what you think can be used as evidence over the term to cite specific examples in your essay to support your position. You will be allowed to bring one page of handwritten notes into the final exam to aid with your essay writing, however you will not be allowed to bring a pre-written essay.

	Points Possible
Participation	500
Discussion Group	100
Film Essay 1	50
Film Essay 2	50
Review Article	200
Final Exam (Bring Greenbook)	100
TOTAL	1,000

GRADE SCALE:

A+ = $\geq 97\%$	A = 94-96%	A- = 90-93%
B+ = 87-89%	B = 84-86%	B- = 80-83%
C+ = 77-79%	C = 74-76%	C- = 70-73%
D+ = 67-69%	D = 60-66%	D- = 51-59%
		F = $\leq 50\%$

Classroom Protocol

- Assigned chapter *readings* from the textbook must be completed prior to scheduled lectures for active participation in classroom lectures and discussions.
- I will be presenting material in lectures and labs that may not be available, or clear, in the textbook for which you are responsible on exams so *on-time arrival and good attendance is vital*. You are responsible for finding out what you missed should you be absent or tardy; refer to the course [Canvas](#) page for materials and/or handouts covered during class.
- All *assignments* are due as stated on the Course Schedule and late work will NOT be accepted.

In addition to course specific protocols, students are expected to:

- Be civil and courteous to one another. While we may not always agree with other perspectives and opinions, classroom respect is mandatory.
- Silence all mobile devices (phones and tablets) and keep them out of reach and view.
- Use laptops/tablets for note taking responsibly. If you are caught browsing the Internet or Social Media outlets during class I will ask you to stop using your device for the remainder of the semester.
- Save all your work until after you have checked your final course grade. Then if you have questions about your final grade, you can bring in past work, and if necessary, corrections can be made.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, and should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](#). Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [Academic Calendars webpage](#) with further explanation in the [Late Drop Policy](#). Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#).

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.”
- “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 Jose State University. The [University’s Academic Integrity policy S07-2](#) 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. Information is available at the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) website.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

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](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC) 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](#) 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.

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 relevant topics such as improving your learning and memory, and alleviating procrastination. A computer lab and study spaces 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](#) 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. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

GEOG 112 – Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes, Spring 2015 Course Schedule

All chapters referenced below correspond to the assigned *Global Issues* text. Readings are to be completed **prior** to subject lecture dates. Please note this schedule *is* subject to change given fair notice, so please refer to [Canvas](#) for latest information. Any changes will also be announced at the beginning of class.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/22	Intro, Syllabus, Textbook, Canvas, Signups
2	1/27 1/29	Ch 1: Chemical & Biological Weapons Group Discussion
3	2/3 2/5	Ch 10: Euro Crises Group 1
4	2/10 2/12	Ch 8: Millennium Development Goals, Group 2 Ch 7: U.S. Trade Policy, Group 3
5	2/17 2/19	Ch 4: Border Security <i>Which Way Home</i>
6	2/24 2/26	Ch 5: Improving Cybersecurity <i>The Internet's Own Boy</i>
7	3/3 3/5	Ch 6: Unrest in the Arab World <i>The Square</i>
8	3/10 3/12	Ch 14: Islamic Sectarianism Group 4
9	3/17 3/19	Ch 2: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Group 5
3/24, 3/26, 3/31 NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK & CESAR CHAVEZ HOLIDAY		
10	4/2	Ch 3: Iraq War - 10 Years Later, Group 6
11	4/7 4/9	Ch 12: State Capitalism, Group 7 Ch 13: Free Speech At Risk <i>Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry</i>
12	4/14 4/16	Ch 11: China in Latin America Group 8
13	4/21 4/23	Ch 9: Booming Africa, Group 9 CLASS CANCELED FOR AAG CONFERENCE
14	4/28 4/30	Ch 15: Future of the Arctic, Group 10 Ch 16: Climate Change
15	5/5 5/7	<i>Chasing Ice</i> <i>Chasing Ice</i>
16	5/12	REVIEW ARTICLE DUE Peer Review
Final	Fri 5/15	FINAL EXAM @9:45 am (Bring Greenbook)