

San José State University Department of Geography

Geog199: SENIOR SEMINAR Spring 2016

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| Classroom: | Clark 224 |
| Class Days/Time: | Thursday, 3:00PM – 5:45PM |
| Instructor: | Gary M. Pereira |
| Email: | gary.pereira@sjsu.edu |
| Office Location: | Washington Square Hall 111 |
| Office Hours: | Monday 2:00 - 5:00 and by appointment |

Course Description

This course is designed to help undergraduate students in Geography to assess their learning experiences and to prepare for a professional career by creating a professional resume, portfolio, and personal website. In addition, lectures and discussions over the course of the semester shall focus on the history and philosophies of geography.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students shall have demonstrated fulfillment of all nine departmental objectives listed below, by means of the work they have accumulated, revised, and published online. They shall have also written an accurate and effective resume, and shall have posted all of this material onto a personal website. Students shall also have formed an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the histories and philosophies of Geography as a distinct discipline, through classroom discussions and in-class writing exercises. The departmental student learning objectives, as well as the learning outcomes for this course, are as follows:

- Objective 1: Demonstrate and analyze knowledge of the facts, processes, and methods of environmental Geography.
- Objective 2: Demonstrate and analyze knowledge of the facts, processes, and methods of human Geography.
- Objective 3: Demonstrate and analyze knowledge of the facts, processes, and methods of regional Geography.
- Objective 4: Demonstrate knowledge and analyze of the facts and methods of map and imagery interpretation.
- Objective 5: Prepare written and verbal presentations that report their geographical discoveries through analyses of appropriate documents, primary data, and/or archival data in professional/technical styles.
- Objective 6: Prepare maps and other geographical graphics that report their discoveries through analyses of appropriate documents, primary data, and/or archival data.
- Objective 7: Explain the spatial connectivity of human societies and environments at local, regional and global scales.
- Objective 8: Explain that solving geographical problems is based on experiential analyses of primary and archival data through the methods of the sciences and social sciences.
- Objective 9: Appreciate that geography as an academic and professional discipline offers important knowledge as well as analytical techniques which have application in solving important human problems.

Required Readings

The six required readings this semester are available for download on Canvas. They are the following:

Richard Aspinall, "A Century of Physical Geography Research in the Annals". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 100, No. 5 (December 2010), pp.1049-1059.

Mike Heffernan, "Histories of Geography". In: *Key Concepts in Geography*, pp. 3-22.

Audrey Kobayashi, "People, Place, and Region: 100 Years of Human Geography in the Annals". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 100, No. 5 (December 2010), pp.1095-1106

Mei-Po Kwan, "A Century of Method-Oriented Scholarship in the Annals". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 100, No. 5 (December 2010), pp.1060-1075

Neil Smith, "History and philosophy of geography: real wars, theory wars". *Progress in Human Geography*, 16(2), 1992, pp. 257-271.

Karl S. Zimmerer, "Retrospective on Nature-Society Geography: Tracing Trajectories (1911-2010)". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 100, No. 5 (December 2010), pp.1076-1094.

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>.

Initially, students shall organize and examine the products of their work over the years and determine whether all of the following nine learning objectives of the department listed above have been achieved. This work may include documents, maps, images, videos, presentations, demonstrably executable code, etc. Each of these objects shall be tagged with the objective(s) it addresses, as verified by the instructor. If there are at the end of this process any objectives that have not been addressed sufficiently, the student shall endeavor at this time (in the first half of the current semester) to generate any documents or other objects that do address them, in the judgement of the instructor. In addition, each student shall create an appealing professional resume that is one or two pages in length.

Once the representative objects have been chosen and converted into acceptable electronic form, students shall revise with the help of the instructor and fellow students any work that the instructor has determined may fall short of expectations. Each student shall then populate a personal website under www.portfolium.com with the information contained in the resume as well as the material submitted and approved as fulfilling these objectives. Each entry shall be tagged with the relevant objectives in a way that is meaningful to the university but does not distract or confuse others who may be viewing the website.

Over the course of the semester, discussion of the history and philosophies of Geography shall result in the completion of weekly in-class short writing assignments. The student needs to be present in order to complete this assignment. Prior to each discussion, students shall read the relevant paper as listed in the schedule below.

At the conclusion of the semester, each student shall present and discuss their results to the class.

Grading Policy

This is a pass/fail course. In order to pass, students shall have successfully fulfilled ALL of the following requirements:

Compilation of material reflecting fulfillment of all nine learning objectives;
Completion of an acceptable resume;
Creation and population of a personal website, from which all chosen material is accessible;
Completion of in-class writing exercises reflecting participation in at least 9 of 15 weekly sessions.

Failure to fulfill any one of the above requirements could result in a failing grade.

Note that "All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades." See University Policy F13-1 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arise. To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf> and SJSU current semester's Policies and Procedures, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) 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), <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 Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) 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 \(AEC\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Geog199 Spring 2016 Course Schedule

Please note that the course calendar is subject to change with fair notice, as announced in class and by email.

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments |
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| 1 | 1/28 | Introduction to Portfolium. |
| 2 | 2/4 | Select, print, and submit to instructor documents tagged by learning objectives. |
| 3 | 2/11 | Writing the resume. Reading and discussion: Aspinall. |
| 4 | 2/18 | Most documents should be submitted by now. Revise as instructed. |
| 5 | 2/25 | Submit resume. Reading and discussion: Kobayashi |
| 6 | 3/3 | Reading and discussion: Smith |
| 7 | 3/10 | Evaluation of resumes. Reading and discussion: Kwan. |
| 8 | 3/17 | Upload approved material to Portfolium. Reading and discussion: Kwan. |
| 9 | 3/24 | Reading and discussion: Smith and Kwan |
| 10 | 3/31 | SPRING BREAK |
| 11 | 4/7 | Evaluation and discussion of Portfolium entries. |
| 12 | 4/14 | Reading and discussion: Heffernan |
| 13 | 4/21 | Reading and discussion: Zimmerer |
| 14 | 4/28 | Reading and discussion: Zimmerer |
| 15 | 5/5 | Presentation and discussion of results. |
| 16 | 5/12 | Presentation and discussion of results. |