

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Department of Geography & Global Studies
#27454, GEOG112 – Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes, Section 3,
Spring, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Kerry Rohrmeier, Ph.D.
Office Location:	Washington Square Hall (WSQ) 111-E
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Email:	kerry.rohrmeier@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday 4:00-6:00 pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Canvas
Prerequisites:	Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better, completion of Core General Education, and upper division standing (60 units). Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area V: Culture, Civilization & Global Understanding

Course Format

This course is taught entirely online. All course resources can be found on the GEOG 112 [Canvas](#) webpage using your 9-digit SJSU ID and password. You are responsible for regularly checking this website often for the latest information and communication. Please log in and follow the ‘Getting Started’ steps.

MYSJSU

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

University 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. (3 units)

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.

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

- GELO 1 *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 weekly written online forum responses and threaded discussions. Students will further critically compare these concepts in a written review article.
- GELO 2 *Identify the historic context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S., and how they have influenced American culture.*
In addition to the weekly written online forum responses and threaded discussions, students will specifically address this in two written essays pertaining to four documentary films shown this term. Students will synthesize the breadth of their understanding in a final exam essay.
- GELO 3 *Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.*
Students, in a small group format, will facilitate online discussions covering cultural changes and pressures beyond U.S. borders.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Excerpts from *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher* (2014 ed.) are available for free online through MLK Library. Each chapter covered this term has been provided to you under the 'Files' tab in Canvas.

Library Liaison

You can seek assistance from Nyle Monday in the MLK library at nyle.monday@sjsu.edu or (408) 808-2041.

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.

- Active online participation is imperative to your overall grade in this online course (50% of your total grade), and so frequent discussion engagement on Canvas is expected each week. In addition to posting individual assigned content in the forums you must read through fellow classmate posts and reply to at least two classmate responses (GELO 1).
- Student groups will be tasked to lead a textbook chapter (GELO 3). This will include guiding understanding by preparing supporting slides to annotate assigned reading along with providing additional supplementary materials to enhance said content. Once the online discussion forum goes live student groups are responsible for not just adding individual prompt responses, but also to moderate all classmate posts. This includes prompt reply with follow-up commentary and facilitating further questioning and critical thought on the content. At the end of the discussion period the student group will submit a summarized response recap to the instructor. All students within a group earn the same grade.
- Links to four documentary films will be posted during this course. Two times during the term you are to demonstrate in writing how you have thought critically about narratives or images seen on the film from a global geography/social sciences point of view (GELO 2). Each essay must be three typed pages (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins on all sides) summarizing new facts gained along

with thought-provoking critique. Film essays must include a total word count noted at the end [750 words minimum]. You may do a third film essay for up to 25-points Extra Credit points.

- A Review Article is a concise paper usually written by an editor that summarizes, compares, and contrasts all recent findings on a specific topic or theme. Create a 500-word review article, + or – 25 words, tying together any two textbook chapters (GELO 1). Your article must be one typed page (single-spaced, 12-point times new roman font with no more than 1” margins on all sides).

Final Examination

The final exam is a single essay prompt. You must clearly support and defend in a written essay what you have gained from this course and how this information might apply to your postgraduate goals (GELO 2). Cite specific examples in your essay to support your argument.

Grading Information

	Points Possible
Participation in Discussion Forums	500
Student Group Chapter	100
Film Essay 1	50
Film Essay 2	50
Review Article	200
Final Exam	100
<i>Optional Extra Credit Film Essay 3</i>	25
TOTAL	1,000

SCALE:

A+ = ≥98%	A = 94-97%	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 = ≤50%

This course must be passed with a C or better as an SJSU graduation requirement. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students. 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. In keeping with this policy, and to making grading responsive. All assignments are due as stated on the Course Schedule and Canvas. **Late work is not accepted.** Please 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.

Classroom Protocol

- Assigned textbook readings must be completed prior to participation in the discussion forums so that facts may be cited in your responses.
- This course covers controversial and politically charged content so civility and courteousness is always expected. While we may not agree with other perspectives and opinions stated, respect is mandatory.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

27454 / GEOG112 – Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes, Spring 2017 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice so please check Canvas for latest course information.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/26-1/29	Familiarize and introduce yourself on Canvas, meet your group, review the syllabus, all assignments and due dates, locate the text chapters and background materials in the Canvas 'Files' tab
2	1/30-2/5	THEME 1: LARGE-SCALE THREATS TO HUMANITY Ch 1: Chemical & Biological Weapons
3	2/6-2/12	Ch 16: Climate Change (Group A) Film 1: <i>Chasing Ice</i> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 2/12
4	2/13-2/19	THEME 2: U.S. TRADE & GLOBALIZATION Ch 15: Future of the Arctic (Group B)
5	2/20-2/26	Ch 7: U.S. Trade Policy (Group C)
6	2/27-3/5	Ch 10: Euro Crises (Group D)
7	3/6-3/12	THEME 3: BORDER ISSUES Ch 4: Border Security (Group E) Film 2: <i>Which Way Home</i> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 3/12
8	3/13-3/19	Ch 2: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Group F)
9	3/20-3/26	THEME 4: TURMOIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST Ch 3: Iraq War - 10 Years Later (Group G)
10	3/27-4/2	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
11	4/3-4/9	Ch 14: Islamic Sectarianism (Group H)
12	4/10-4/16	Ch 6: Unrest in the Arab World (Group I) Film 3: <i>The Square</i> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 4/16
13	4/17-4/23	THEME 5: CHINA IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT Ch 12: State Capitalism (Group J)
14	4/24-4/30	Ch 13: Free Speech At Risk (Group K) Film 4: <i>Ai WeiWei: Never Sorry</i> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 4/30
15	5/1-5/7	Ch 11: China in Latin America (Group L)
16	5/8-5/14	THEME 6: FUTURE PROSPERITY Ch 9: Booming Africa (Group M) Ch 8: Millennium Development Goals (Group N)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Final Exam		Review Article Due 5/19 Final Exam Essay Due 5/21

STUDENT GROUPS

Student groups are tasked to lead and moderate a textbook chapter. The instructor will post the discussion prompts, but each student group must reply to their classmate responses and ask follow-up questions to keep the discussion going. Prior to the actual discussion forum the student group is required to prepare supporting slides to annotate the assigned reading along with adding any additional supplementary materials to support said content. At the end of the discussion forum period the student group will submit a summarized response recap highlighting the majority and variety of classmate responses. All students within each group will earn the same grade. The following groups have been created:

Group A: Andrew Aguilar, Steve Yoshizuka

Group B: Michel Bois, Wenxin Ye, Mary Conroy

Group C: Zachary Campbell, Michael White, Chris Munguia

Group D: Matt Cannon, Christine Watson,

Group E: Samantha Chen, Ana Velasquez, Navpreet Kaur

Group F: Wanjing Chen, John Truong, Karen Le

Group G: Zhuomin Chen, Antonia Trott, Andrew Formale

Group H: Ericka-jae Cichocki, Laurinda Tran, Anna Garcia

Group I: Cindy De La Cruz, Chad Stark, Justin Gallimore

Group J: Lorynn Dukelow, Kevin Rodezno

Group K: Rafael Garcia, Yen Phan, Christine Lam

Group L: Angelica Ganzalez, Binh Nguyen

Group M: Kiratraj Grewal, Ka Mok, Eileen Le

Group N: Maria Halatsis, Linda Le