Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Kerry Rohrmeier, PhD

Office Location: WSQ113-A (Geospatial Lab Office)

Telephone: (408) 924-5475, but email yields a faster response

Email: kerry.rohrmeier@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-3pm, and by appointment

Class Days/Time: Online

Classroom: Online

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

Course Format

This course is taught entirely online. Access to course resources and all participation will be through the Canvas Learning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking the website.

Course Description

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.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this GE 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**

Readings from *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher* are available for free online through the MLK Library website.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities.

- 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 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. 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 and 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 a thought-provoking critique. 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 editor that summarizes, compares, and contrasts all recent findings on a specific topic or theme. Create a 500-word review article, + or – 25 words, integrating any two textbook chapters covered this term (GELO 1). Your review 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**

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

**Grading Information**

Grades are determined on the points-based scale and include +/- grades. All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their graded work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades. In keeping with this policy, and to help ensure that grading is responsive, all assignments are due as stated on the Course Schedule and Canvas. **Late work is not accepted in this course.** 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Participation in Discussion Forums</th>
<th>500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student Group Chapter</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Film Essay 1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Film Essay 2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review Article</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SCALE:**

- A plus = ≥98%  
- A = 94-97%  
- A minus = 90-93%

- B plus = 87-89%  
- B = 84-86%  
- B minus = 80-83%

- C plus = 77-79%  
- C = 74-76%  
- C minus = 70-73%

- D plus = 67-69%  
- D = 60-66%  
- D minus = 51-59%

- F = ≤50%

Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.

**Classroom Protocol**

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

**University Policies**

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/).
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/21-8/25</td>
<td>Familiarize and introduce yourself on Canvas, meet your groupmates, review the syllabus for all assignments and due dates, and locate the readings and background materials posted under the Canvas ‘Files’ tab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/26-9/1</td>
<td><strong>THEME 1: LARGE-SCALE THREATS TO HUMANITY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ch 1: Chemical &amp; Biological Weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/2-9/8</td>
<td>Ch 16: Climate Change <em>(Group A)</em>&lt;br&gt;Film 1: <em>Chasing Ice</em> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 9/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/9-9/15</td>
<td><strong>THEME 2: U.S. TRADE &amp; GLOBALIZATION</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ch 15: Future of the Arctic <em>(Group B)</em></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9/16-9/22</td>
<td>Ch 7: U.S. Trade Policy <em>(Group C)</em></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9/23-9/29</td>
<td>Ch 10: Euro Crises <em>(Group D)</em></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>9/30-10/6</td>
<td><strong>THEME 3: BORDER ISSUES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ch 4: Border Security <em>(Group E)</em>&lt;br&gt;Film 2: <em>Which Way Home</em> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 10/6</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/7-10/13</td>
<td>Ch 2: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict <em>(Group F)</em></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/14-10/20</td>
<td><strong>THEME 4: TURMOIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ch 3: Iraq War - 10 Years Later <em>(Group G)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/21-10/27</td>
<td>Ch 14: Islamic Sectarianism <em>(Group H)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10/28-11/3</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/4-11/10</td>
<td>Ch 6: Unrest in the Arab World <em>(Group I)</em>&lt;br&gt;Film 3: <em>The Square</em> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 11/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/11-11/17</td>
<td><strong>THEME 5: CHINA IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ch 12: State Capitalism <em>(Group J)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/18-11/24</td>
<td>Ch 13: Free Speech at Risk <em>(Group K)</em>&lt;br&gt;Film 4: <em>Ai WeiWei: Never Sorry</em> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 11/24</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11/25-12/1</td>
<td>Ch 11: China in Latin America <em>(Group L)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/2-12/8</td>
<td><strong>THEME 6: FUTURE PROSPERITY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ch 9: Booming Africa <em>(Group M)</em>&lt;br&gt;Ch 8: Millennium Development Goals <em>(Group N)</em></td>
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<td>Final Exam Week</td>
<td>Review Article Due 12/11&lt;br&gt;Final Exam Essay Due 12/13</td>
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STUDENT GROUPS

Working in small groups students will be tasked to lead and moderate a specific topic. The instructor will post the discussion prompts, but each group must reply to their classmate responses and ask follow-up questions to keep the discussion going. Prior to the actual discussion forum, the group is required to prepare supporting slides to annotate the assigned reading. At the end of the discussion forum period the group will submit a summarized recap highlighting the majority and variety of classmate responses. All students within each group earn the same grade. Detailed due dates are listed on the next page.

Group A: Brian Chiu, Vicky Dinh
Group B: Zalyan Kieu, Mayra Landa
Group C: Lindsay Bui, Ross Baba
Group D: Jarred Guiriba, Kyle Santos, Wenwen Su
Group E: Hena Pal, Armando Martinez, Tiffany Wong
Group F: Jimen Woo, Joshua Thomson, Khanh Pham
Group G: Brandon Ngo, Eddy Chavez, Katrina Bendo
Group H: Mariya Knysheva, Manpreet Kaur, Matilda Loughmiller
Group I: Brendan Burke, Taylor Bennett, Allison Chen
Group J: Daniel Tan, Rashmeet Toger, Adeline Ucol
Group K: Daron Pham, Elizabeth Pham, Chunping Martinson
Group L: Christina Stratakis, Anthony Troung, Alyson Chew
Group M: Khiet-Tam Nguyen, Duvchin Javkhlanugs
Group N: Luciano Dela Fuente, Cynthia Fernandez-Rios
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>IMPORTANT DATES</th>
<th>CHAPTER ASSIGNED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Group A | 9/1 Background Slides Due  
         | 9/2-9/8 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 9/9 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 16: Climate Change |
| Group B | 9/8 Background Slides Due  
         | 9/9-9/15 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 9/16 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 15: Future of the Arctic |
| Group C | 9/15 Background Slides Due  
         | 9/16-9/22 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 9/23 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 7: U.S. Trade Policy |
| Group D | 9/22 Background Slides Due  
         | 9/23-9/29 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 9/30 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 10: Euro Crises |
| Group E | 9/29 Background Slides Due  
         | 9/30-10/6 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 10/7 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 4: Border Security |
| Group F | 10/6 Background Slides Due  
         | 10/7-10/13 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 10/14 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 2: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict |
| Group G | 10/13 Background Slides Due  
         | 10/14-10/20 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 10/21 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 3: Iraq War - 10 Years Later |
| Group H | 10/20 Background Slides Due  
         | 10/21-10/27 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 10/28 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 14: Islamic Sectarianism |
| Group I | 10/27 Background Slides Due  
         | 10/28-11/3 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 11/4 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 6: Unrest in the Arab World |
| Group J | 11/3 Background Slides Due  
         | 11/4-11/10 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 11/11 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 12: State Capitalism |
| Group K | 11/10 Background Slides Due  
         | 11/11-11/17 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 11/18 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 13: Free Speech at Risk |
| Group L | 11/17 Background Slides Due  
         | 11/18-11/24 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 11/25 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 11: China in Latin America |
| Group M | 11/24 Background Slides Due  
         | 11/25-12/1 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 12/2 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 9: Booming Africa |
| Group N | 12/1 Background Slides Due  
         | 12/2-12/8 Facilitate Online Discussion  
         | 12/9 Discussion Prompt Recap Due  | Ch 8: Millennium Development Goals |