

San José State University
Department of Geography & Global Studies
GEOG 140 Sections 80 and 81, United States Geography, Online -
Spring 2023

Instructor:	Eileen Pena
Office Location:	Washington Square Hall (WSQ) 111B
Email:	eileen.pena@sjsu.edu
Phone:	By appointment
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 2-3pm online and phone 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 S: Self, Society & Equality in the U.S.
Course Fees:	None

Online Course Materials and MYSJSU Messaging

Course Format

This course is taught entirely online in an asynchronous format which means there are no scheduled meetings on Zoom. Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with internet access. SJSU

has a free equipment loan program available for students. New course modules can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System at <http://sjsu.instructure.com> each Monday morning. Students are responsible for regularly checking Canvas for announcements and updates. Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found in Canvas. You are responsible for having your current contact information in MySJSU so that you can receive any important class announcements sent from there by the instructor.

Course Description

Geography of the U.S. emphasizing the continuing changes of America's places and regions. Themes include environmental, culture, economic, and social geographies at community, regional and national scales (3-units).

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

SLO 1: Students will be able to place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

SLO 2: Students will be able to identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.

SLO 3: Students will be able to evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

SLO 4: Students will be able to compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Course Goals

The United States is experiencing some of its most important challenges, changes, and debates in many decades. A geographic perspective is crucial to better comprehending and contributing to such pressing challenges as climate change, health and health care, xenophobia, and socio-economic inequalities. In this course, students will learn approaches to comprehending the geographic diversity, patterns, and connections of the United States and its subregions. The class will address these at phenomena at different scales (from local, regional, national, and to international), and across different themes (including environment, history, politics, race, gender, and economics). The class materials show the complex environment-society interrelationships of place. By critically studying the diverse geography of the United States, this course examines how space is not inevitable or predetermined, but rather the product(s) of active choices, connections, and changing contexts.

GELO

SJSU Studies Area S students will study the interrelationship of individuals, racial groups, and cultural groups to understand and appreciate issues of diversity, equality, and structured inequality in the U.S., its institutions, and its cultures.

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

- GELO 1: Describe how identities (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age) are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality; Discussion 1 assesses how identities are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality.

- GELO 2: Describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S;
Discussion 2 examines the processes producing diversity, equality and structured inequalities using the Bay Area as a regional case.
- GELO 3: Describe social actions which have led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S. (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age).; and analyze the social actions which led to greater racial equity and social justice in the United States and Discussion 4 does the same for gender equity and social justice.
- GELO 4: Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.
In Discussion 5 students explain the constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S. using an example of human health.

Required Texts/Readings

No textbook is required for this course. Materials available on Canvas at no cost to the student.

Other equipment / material requirements

You will need regular, reliable access to a computer and the Internet, as well as Microsoft Word (or a word processing software that allows you to save in .docx, .doc or .pdf format).

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignments including quizzes and exams will not be accepted late. Students must work ahead of the due date to complete the work and allow for any potential issues at the last minute. It is suggested that students have a readily available back-up computer and Internet source such as the library or a friend's computer to use in case theirs is not working. 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, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Final Examination or Evaluation (Paper).

Classroom Protocol

- **ATTENDANCE in our online class is required.** You must log in at least once a week, or you will be dropped from the course.
- All weekly assignments, quizzes, **EXAMINATIONS** must be taken at the scheduled time. **Make-up exams** are not allowed. Complete the work by the due date, or accept loss of points.
- **STUDENT CONDUCT:**
 - Everyone in the classroom is expected to be civil and courteous. We will not always agree with the perspectives and opinions shared in the classroom, but I do expect that we will treat each other with respect.
 - **No form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated.** You are probably a conscientious student who would never think of cheating, but less prudent students found cheating will receive zero points on the exam/assignment and in case of recurrence, an F in the course and/or academic discipline or dismissal from the university.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](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/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

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.

Midterm Exam	100 points
Map activities and/or quizzes (10 worth 10 points each)	100 points
Discussions and/or assignments (10 worth 10 points each)	100 points
Miscellaneous assignments	100 points
Paper	100 points
Total points available	500 points

Percentage	Total Points	Letter Grade
95-100%	475-500	A
90-95%	450- 474	A-
87-89 %	435-449	B+
83-86%	415-434	B
80-82%	400-414	B-
73-79 %	365-399	C+
67-72%	335-364	C
60-66%	300-334	C-
57-59 %	285-299	D+
50-56%	250-284	D
Less than 50 %	Less than 250	F

The midterm exam will consist of an upload of a map activity and a 1-page essay based on material learned before the midterm exam.

For your final paper, you will write 1,500 words (about 4 double-spaced pages) that covers one specific theme based on any materials and information from the course (for example, cities, or language, or politics), and also covers one specific geographic area. Your writing will explore this theme and area by providing a specific example. This example can be an issue that you are interested in, or it could be an experience that you personally are familiar with. As noted in the syllabus, the paper will be 100 points. You should not just describe any example(s) discussed in the materials and information from the course but instead add new information, and it will likely be helpful for you to do some research online via the SJSU MLK library website.

Classroom Protocol

Generally, in an online course, there is no room for undesirable classroom behavior. Mature and respectful behavior is still required in all communications such as discussion forums and other methods of communication – directed both to fellow classmates as well as the instructor. Disrespectful or inappropriate behavior will be handled first by the instructor and secondarily by the college, as necessary.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/) (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/

syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

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 arises. To learn important campus information, view University Policy S16-15 and SJSU current semester's Policies and Procedures. 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. Workload and Credit Hour Requirements

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 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading. However, students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated. The full policy language can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-3.pdf>

Timely Feedback on Class Assignments

Per University Policy F13-1, 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. That being said, please practice patience, as your instructor teaches multiple classes at SJSU and other colleges and assignments may not be graded immediately.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

University Policy S14-7 states that 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.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “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. This includes taking photos or screenshots of instructor or course materials. 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.”
- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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 F15-7 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. Visit the Student Conduct and Ethical Development website for more information.

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 Accessible Education Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs and other resources for student use are available in:

- Associated Students Print & Technology Center at <http://as.sjsu.edu/asptc/index.jsp> on the Student Union (East Wing 2nd floor Suite 2600)
- The Spartan Floor at the SJSU Library at <https://library.sjsu.edu/services/services>
- Student Computing Services at <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/studentcomputing-services-center>
- Computers at the Martin Luther King Library for public at large at <https://www.sjpl.org/wireless>
- Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. A wide variety of audio-

visual equipment is available for student checkout from Collaboration & Academic Technology Services located in IRC Building. 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' free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The San José State University Writing Center offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, and all of our services are free for SJSU students. Our mission is to enhance the writing skills of SJSU students so they can communicate clearly in any setting (informal, academic, or professional). We accomplish this goal through creating original writing resources, offering workshops, and conducting one-on-one and small group tutoring sessions.

The SJSU Writing Center has two locations: We conduct drop-in tutoring sessions in Clark Hall, Suite 126; we conduct scheduled appointments on the second floor of the MLK Library. All our writing tutors 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 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. [Writing Center website](#)

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential 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 and Psychological Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

GEOG 140 / Geography of the United States

Spring 2023, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in Canvas.

Week #	Dates	Topics and Major Assignments/Tests
1	1/25-1/29	Introduction to Geography
2	1/30-2/5	Overview of Geography of the United States
3	2/6-2/12	California
4	2/13-2/19	Alaska
5	2/20-2/26	Hawaii
6	2/27-3/5	The Northwest
7	3/6-3/12	Midterm Exam
8	3/13-3/19	The Midwest
9	3/20-3/26	North Central
10	3/27-4/2	Spring Recess - No assignments this week
11	4/3-4/9	The Northeast
12	4/10-4/16	The Southwest
13	4/17-4/23	South Central
14	4/24-4/30	The Southeast
15	5/1-5/7	The Leftovers / Review
16	5/8-5/14	How to Keep Geography in Your Life
17	5/15-5/21	Final Paper due 5/21