

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Department of Urban and Regional Planning,
43826, GEOG112 - Nations, Cultures and Territorial Disputes, Section 81, Fall, 2019

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](http://sjsu.instructure.com) 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.

	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
TOTAL	1,000

SCALE:

A plus = $\geq 98\%$	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 = $\leq 50\%$

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) (<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/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

GEOG112 / Nations, Cultures and Territorial Disputes, Fall 2019, Course Schedule

This subject to change with fair notice, please check Canvas regularly for course announcements.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/21-8/25	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
2	8/26-9/1	THEME 1: LARGE-SCALE THREATS TO HUMANITY Ch 1: Chemical & Biological Weapons
3	9/2-9/8	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 9/8
4	9/9-9/15	THEME 2: U.S. TRADE & GLOBALIZATION Ch 15: Future of the Arctic (Group B)
5	9/16-9/22	Ch 7: U.S. Trade Policy (Group C)
6	9/23-9/29	Ch 10: Euro Crises (Group D)
7	9/30-10/6	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 10/6
8	10/7-10/13	Ch 2: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Group F)
9	10/14-10/20	THEME 4: TURMOIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST Ch 3: Iraq War - 10 Years Later (Group G)
10	10/21-10/27	Ch 14: Islamic Sectarianism (Group H)
11	10/28-11/3	SPRING BREAK
12	11/4-11/10	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 11/10
13	11/11-11/17	THEME 5: CHINA IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT Ch 12: State Capitalism (Group J)
14	11/18-11/24	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 11/24
15	11/25-12/1	Ch 11: China in Latin America (Group L)
16	12/2-12/8	THEME 6: FUTURE PROSPERITY Ch 9: Booming Africa (Group M) Ch 8: Millennium Development Goals (Group N)
Final Exam Week		Review Article Due 12/11 Final Exam Essay Due 12/13

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: Cody Bui, Phong Ta

Group B: Casey Yu, Mimy Wong

Group C: Ria Nigam, Alexander Song

Group D: Carlos Naz Jr, Nicholas O'yang, Davina Alvarez

Group E: Jihwan Kim, Kassandra Monta, Jamaica Munoz

Group F: Su Lau, Jacqueline Maisey, Kanticha Thaweekulchai

Group G: Elizabeth Lira, Angeles Negrete, Lauren Tapang

Group H: Essra Omer, Micha Lane, Oanh Nguyen

Group I: Thu-minh Nguyen, Aya Abdelhadi, Laila Akhavi

Group J: Salman Alanazi, Bashar Alshariff, Sin Chan

Group K: Timothy Doung, Marybell Arebalo, Ignacio Agraz

Group L: Jason Jaspal, Amanpreet Kaur, Ahmad Abuamriah

Group M: Zaver Hussain, Alejandra Galindo

Group N: Anis Gonzalez, Yehya Adelhadi

	IMPORTANT DATES	CHAPTER ASSIGNED
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