

San José State University
College of Social Sciences, Department of Geography
29946, GEOG112 – Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes, Section 82,
Spring, 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Kerry Rohrmeier, PhD
Office Location:	WSQ 218-A
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Email:	Kerry.rohrmeier@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Online, video chat, or phone call 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. Students need Internet access. All course resources can be found on the [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking into the website 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.

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

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

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].
- 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

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.

	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+ = ≥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%

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.

Grading Information for GE

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 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 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), 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 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

29946 / GEOG112 – Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes Spring 2020, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Changes will be posted online under Announcements.

Course Schedule

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

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: Angel Espinosa, Anh Huynh

Group B: Rena Heredia, Sara Inphachack

Group C: Matthew Corpus, Eric Tamariz

Group D: Jovi Hen, Maximillian Kong

Group E: Eric Chi, Thalia Sorensen

Group F: Ian Han, John Le, Diana Tran

Group G: Charlie Chau, Ashvrya Sharma

Group H: Jake Guzman, Jonathan Lenard

Group I: Zoe Blankenship, Luis Sanchez

Group J: Ricardo Gomez, Jaspal Mann, Karen Wong

Group K: Scott Ayers, Mia Rodriguez

Group L: Tyler Gilbert, Kevin Phan

Group M: Medina Avdic, Erikajoan Rivera

Group N: Oscar Garcia, Sabrina Phongsa

	IMPORTANT DATES	CHAPTER ASSIGNED
Group A	2/2 Background Slides Due 2/3-2/8 Facilitate Online Discussion 2/9 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 16: Climate Change
Group B	2/9 Background Slides Due 2/10-2/15 Facilitate Online Discussion 2/16 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 15: Future of the Arctic
Group C	2/16 Background Slides Due 2/17-2/22 Facilitate Online Discussion 2/23 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 7: U.S. Trade Policy
Group D	2/23 Background Slides Due 2/24-2/29 Facilitate Online Discussion 3/1 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 10: Euro Crises
Group E	3/1 Background Slides Due 3/2-3/7 Facilitate Online Discussion 3/8 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 4: Border Security
Group F	3/8 Background Slides Due 3/9-3/14 Facilitate Online Discussion 3/15 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 2: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Group G	3/15 Background Slides Due 3/16-3/21 Facilitate Online Discussion 3/22 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 3: Iraq War - 10 Years Later
Group H	3/22 Background Slides Due 3/23-3/28 Facilitate Online Discussion 3/29 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 14: Islamic Sectarianism
Group I	4/5 Background Slides Due 4/6-4/11 Facilitate Online Discussion 4/12 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 6: Unrest in the Arab World
Group J	4/12 Background Slides Due 4/13-4/18 Facilitate Online Discussion 4/19 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 12: State Capitalism
Group K	4/19 Background Slides Due 4/20-4/25 Facilitate Online Discussion 4/26 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 13: Free Speech at Risk
Group L	4/26 Background Slides Due 4/27-5/2 Facilitate Online Discussion 5/3 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 11: China in Latin America
Group M	5/3 Background Slides Due 5/4-5/9 Facilitate Online Discussion 5/10 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 9: Booming Africa
Group N	5/3 Background Slides Due 5/4-5/9 Facilitate Online Discussion 5/10 Discussion Prompt Recap Due	Ch 8: Millennium Development Goals