

# Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

Syllabus:

San José State University  
Department of Urban and Regional Planning  
GEOG 112 (Section 4), Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes,  
Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Eileen Pena  
Email: [eileen.pena@sjsu.edu](mailto:eileen.pena@sjsu.edu)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm

Course Format  
Online

This course is an online-only course. No in-person class meetings are required. Access to a computer with a reliable Internet connection as well as a word processing program (such as MS Word) are required. The course is through Canvas learning management system. Information about Canvas, including links to log-in are here:  
<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>

Course Catalog 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, video clips, 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.

Instructor: Eileen Peña

Office Location: Online due to pandemic

Email: eileen.pena@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-4pm online and phone or Zoom - other days and times available  
by appointment

Class Days/Time: Online

Classroom: Online through Canvas <https://sjsu.instructure.com/>

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, Civil & Global Understanding

Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes, GEOG 112, Spring 2021 Page 1 of 8

General Education 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 written essays pertaining to documentary films and/or video clips 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.

#### Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Locate and identify every country in the world on an online map.
2. Demonstrate their ability to research a geography-related topic via an essay assignment.
3. Demonstrate their knowledge of culture and some other traits of the various world regions and topics

via online quizzes and/or essay assignments.

#### Required Texts/Materials

##### Textbook

No textbook is required for this course. All materials will be delivered online through Canvas.

##### Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Access to a computer and reliable Internet source as well as a word processing program (such as Microsoft Word) are required.

#### Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignments including quizzes and exams will not be accepted late. Students must work ahead of the due dates

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. Other

course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes, GEOG 112, Spring 2021 Page 2 of 8

For more information see: University Syllabus Policy S16-9 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>.

#### Course Requirements and Assignments

**Assignments will not be accepted late.** Students must work ahead of time to complete the assignment 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.

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. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

**Final Examination or Evaluation** The final exam will be online and based on course materials.

#### Grading Information

10 Extra Credit points also possible. See the Canvas classroom for details.

#### Determination of Grades

Final letter grades will be based on the grading scale below:

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Introduction post 10 points

Midterm exam 100 points

Chapter quizzes (14 worth 10 points each) 140 points

Map Assignments (15 worth 10 points each) 150 points

Final Exam (not cumulative) 100 points

Total points available 500 points

Total Points Letter Grade

475-500 A

450- 474 A-

435-449 B+

415-434 B

400-414 B-

365-399 C+

335-364 C

300-334 C-

285-299 D+

250-284 D

Less than 250 F

Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes, GEOG 112, Spring 2021 Page 3 of 8

#### Classroom Protocol

Generally, in an online course, there is much less room for undesirable classroom behavior (such as

inappropriate cell phone use, etc.). However, 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes, GEOG 112, Spring 2021 Page 4 of 8

#### Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc.

Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars

webpage. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes (Late Drop

Information).

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub.

#### 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. 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 King 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

Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes, GEOG 112, Spring 2021 Page 5 of 8

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 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 smallgroup 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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

#### 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>

Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes, GEOG 112, Spring 2021 Page 6 of 8  
Geography 112 / Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes, Spring 2021, Course  
Schedule

Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes, GEOG 112, Spring 2021 Page 7 of 8  
Week Date Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines

1 1/27-1/31 Introduction to Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes: What and Where?  
Intro post, quiz, 2 map activities

2 2/1-2/7 United States Political Overview: Here We Are!  
Quiz, map activity

3 2/8-2/14 Global Political Overview: What in the World?  
Quiz, map activity

4 2/15-2/21 Chile Political Overview: Patagonia and Empeñadas  
Quiz, map activity

5 2/22-2/28 Europe Overview: Brexit and Backpacking  
Quiz, map activity

6 3/1-3/7 Student Questions Module: Ask a Question, Answer a Question  
Quiz, map activity

7 3/8-3/14 American Influences on Other Cultures: Hollywood and Levis Jeans  
Quiz, map activity

8 3/15-3/21 International Shipping Industry: Your Amazon Package Has Been Delivered  
Quiz, map activity

9 3/22-3/28 Midterm Exam Online - Open Monday-Sunday (Closes Sunday 11:59pm)

10 3/29-4/4 Spring Recess - no class assignments this week

12 4/5-4/11 Other Cultures Influences on America: Saris and Sombreros  
Quiz, map activity

13 4/12-4/18 Global Water Issues Overview: Smartwater and the Great Thirst  
Quiz, Map activity

14 4/19-4/25 World Heritage Sites: Yosemite and The Taj Mahal  
Quiz, map activity

15 4/26-5/2 Mexico Overview: The Geography of Tequila  
Quiz, map activity

16 5/3-5/9 Japan Overview: Ramen, Anime, and Santaku  
Quiz, map activity

17 5/10-5/16 Last week of class - Keeping Geography in Your Life  
Quiz, map activity

18 5/17-5/23 Final Exam Online - Open Monday-Sunday (Closes Sunday 11:59pm)  
Nations, Cultures, and Territorial Disputes, GEOG 112, Spring 2021 Page 8 of 8

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Sun Sep 20, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Europe Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">European Countries Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Oct 25, 2020	Assignment <a href="#">Other Culture's Influence on America Matching Terms Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">The Caribbean Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Jan 31, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Current events write-up assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Student Introductions and Profile Photo Discussion</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Student Introductions and Profile Photo Discussion</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">World Continents - Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">World Oceans - Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Feb 7, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Political Geography Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">United States Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">United States Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m

Sun Feb 14, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Middle East Countries Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Political Geography Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Feb 21, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Chile Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Chile Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">European countries write-up assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Faculty Led Program write-up assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">South America and Central America Countries Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">South America and Central America Countries Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Feb 28, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Asia Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Student Questions Discussion Forum</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Mar 7, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">American Influences on Other Cultures Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Brexit Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">EU Countries - Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">World Wonders and Landmarks Map Activity</a>	due by 11:59p m

Sun Mar 14, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">International Shipping Industry Class Discussion</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Oceania Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Mar 21, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">21 Major World Cities Map Game</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Midterm Exam - Africa Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Midterm Exam - Multiple Choice</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">The Last Current Events Check-In of the Semester</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">World Heritage Sites Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Mar 28, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Global Water Issues Discussion</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">World Rivers - Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Apr 4, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Wonders and Landmarks - Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">World Heritage Sites Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Apr 11, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Keeping Geography in your Life discussion</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Mexican States - Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Mexico Matching Terms Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m

	Assignment <a href="#">Your Choice Map Game</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Apr 18, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Extra Credit Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Extra Credit Map Game: Disputed Areas and Breakaway Regions Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Japan Quiz</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Japanese Regions Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun Apr 25, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Keeping Geography in your Life discussion</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Your Choice Map Game</a>	due by 11:59p m
Sun May 2, 2021	Assignment <a href="#">Extra Credit Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Extra Credit Map Game: Disputed Areas and Breakaway Regions Map Game Upload Assignment</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Final Exam - Essay Portion</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Final Exam - Map Portion</a>	due by 11:59p m
	Assignment <a href="#">Final Map Game Upload Assignment: UN Member States</a>	
	Assignment <a href="#">World Heritage Sites Overview</a>	

February 2021

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------

31 January 2021 31 Previous month Click to view event details	1 February 2021 1	2 February 2021 2	3 February 2021 3	4 February 2021 4	5 February 2021 5	6 February 2021 6
7 February 2021 7 Today Click to view event details	8 February 2021 8	9 February 2021 9	10 February 2021 10	11 February 2021 11	12 February 2021 12	13 February 2021 13
14 February 2021 14 Click to view event details	15 February 2021 15	16 February 2021 16	17 February 2021 17	18 February 2021 18	19 February 2021 19	20 February 2021 20
21 February 2021 21 Click to view event details	22 February 2021 22	23 February 2021 23	24 February 2021 24	25 February 2021 25	26 February 2021 26	27 February 2021 27
28 February 2021 28 Click to view event details	1 March 2021 1 Next month	2 March 2021 2 Next month	3 March 2021 3 Next month	4 March 2021 4 Next month	5 March 2021 5 Next month	6 March 2021 6 Next month
7 March 2021 7 Next month Click to view event details	8 March 2021 8 Next month	9 March 2021 9 Next month	10 March 2021 10 Next month	11 March 2021 11 Next month	12 March 2021 12 Next month	13 March 2021 13 Next month

**Course assignments are not weighted.**