

San José State University
College of Social Sciences, Department of Urban and Regional Planning
GEOGRAPHY 112 : Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes
Class # 10355, Section 3, Winter, 2021

Instructor:	Dr Aharon deGrassi, PhD
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Telephone:	Please email
Email:	aharon.degrassi@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	By appointment at : 2:00-2:30 PM on Zoom
Class Days/Time:	Asynchronous 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
Units	3

Course Format

This course is taught entirely online in an asynchronous format meaning there are no scheduled class meetings. 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. Course materials can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Students are responsible for regularly checking the website for announcements and 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, assignments, and discussions will be used to gain greater understanding of complex issues. Students will hone critical, relational, and contextual thinking and be expected to communicate independent views effectively, particularly in a 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.
- GELO 2: Identify the historic context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S., and how they have influenced American culture.
- GELO 3: Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.

Required Texts/Readings

All readings are available for free as PDFs on Canvas. Also, MLK Library subscribes to *CQ Researcher*, which is available for free online with student login.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that to be successful, it is expected students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course 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.

- Active online participation in **assignments** is imperative to your overall grade in this online course (49% of your total grade), and so frequent **discussion** and engagement on Canvas is expected. In addition to posting individual assigned content in the forums (25 points) you must read through fellow classmate posts and reply to at least two classmate responses per topic (5 points each) (GELO 1).
- Links to several academy award winning **documentary films** are posted to complement readings. Two times during the term, you are to demonstrate in writing how you have thought critically about narratives or images shown on the film and how it relates to global geography and the social sciences (GELO 2). Each essay must be three typed pages (double-spaced, 12-point size Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins on all sides) summarizing new facts gained along with a thought-provoking critique. Film essays must include a word count noted at the end [500 words minimum].
- A **Review Article** is a concise paper usually written by an editor that summarizes, compares, and contrasts recent findings on a specific topic or theme. Create a 750-word review article, + or – 25 words, tying together any two CQ Research articles assigned this term (GELO 1). Your article must be double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font with no more than 1-inch margins on all sides.

Final Examination

The final exam is a two-part essay question [750 words minimum]. What you have gained from this course, and how will a global understanding apply to your postgraduate goal(s)? (GELO 2). Cite specific learning examples 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 for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities.

	Points
14 Assignments (35 points each)	490
Film Essay 1	100
Film Essay 2	100
Review Article	200
Final Exam	110
TOTAL	1000

SCALE:

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

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 without documentation of exceptional circumstances.** 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.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and will merit a 0 for the assignment. Students who are suspected of cheating during an exam will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office and depending on the severity of the conduct, will receive a zero on the assignment or a grade of F in the course. Grade Forgiveness does not apply to courses for which the original grade was the result of a finding of academic dishonesty.

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 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) (<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.

GEOG112 – Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes: Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Changes will be posted online under Announcements. All are available as PDFs on Canvas. All assignments are due by 11:59 PM of the day listed.

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments
WEEK 1	
1/4	<p>Familiarize yourself with the Canvas webpage, review the syllabus, check out all assignments and due dates, locate the readings.</p> <p>Assignment 1: Introductions</p>
1/5	<p>‘Human Geography: A Cultural Approach,’ pages 1-9 and 24-29, in Neumann et al (2019) <i>Contemporary Human Geography</i>.</p> <p>Assignment 2: Discussion Forum</p>
1/6	<p>‘Political Geography: A Divided World,’ pages 186-219, in Neumann et al (2019) <i>Contemporary Human Geography</i>.</p> <p>Assignment 3: Discussion Forum</p>
1/7	<p>Reading “Cyberwarfare” 2020</p> <p>Assignment 4: Discussion Forum</p>
1/8	<p>Reading “Climate Change and Health” 2019</p> <p>Assignment 5: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Film: <i>Before the Flood</i> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is due at 11:59pm on 1/8</p> <p>https://csu-sjsu.userservices.exlibrisgroup.com/view/action/uresolver.do?operation=resolveService&package_service_id=4847346560002919&institutionId=2919&customerId=2900</p>

WEEK 2

1/11	<p>Reading “China Rising” 2020</p> <p>Assignment 6: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Film: <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 at 11:59pm on 1/11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIdlt3j9nKA</p>
1/12	<p>Reading “Africa in Transition” 2018</p> <p>Assignment 7: Africa in Transition Discussion Forum</p> <p>Film: <i>Vote for Kibera</i> - if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is due at 11:59pm on 1/12 https://csu-sjsu.userservices.exlibrisgroup.com/view/action/uresolver.do?operation=resolveService&package_service_id=4847346710002919&institutionId=2919&customerId=2900</p>
1/13	<p>Reading “U.S. Foreign Policy in Transition” 2019</p> <p>Assignment 8: Discussion Forum</p>
1/14	<p>Reading on “European Union at a Crossroads” 2019</p> <p>Assignment 9: Discussion Forum</p>
1/15	<p>Reading “Global Migration” 2020</p> <p>Assignment 10: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Film(s): If you choose to write on one of these two films for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is due at 11:59pm on 1/15 <i>Which Way Home</i> https://tubitv.com/movies/56919/which-way-home - or - <i>Human Flow</i> https://na03.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/view/action/uresolver.do?operation=resolveService&package_service_id=39056953130002901&institutionId=2901&customerId=2900</p>

WEEK 3	
1/18	Holiday (No Class): Martin Luther King Jr Day
1/19	Reading “Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” 2018 Assignment 11: Discussion Forum Assignment 12: Map Analysis
1/20	Reading “Global Protest Movements” 2020 Assignment 13: Discussion Forum Film: <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 at 11:59pm on 1/20 https://csu-sjsu.userservices.exlibrisgroup.com/view/action/uresolver.do?operation=resolveService&package_service_id=4847346660002919&institutionId=2919&customerId=2900
1/21	Reading on “Pandemic Economy” 2020 Assignment 14: Discussion Forum
1/22	Review Article Due at 11:59pm on 1/22 Final Exam Essay Due at 11:59pm on 1/22