

San José State University
College of Social Sciences, Department of Geography
GEOG112 – Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes, Section 84, Winter 2022

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| Instructor: | Kerry Rohrmeier, PhD |
| Office Location: | WSQ 113-A but not on campus in winter term |
| Telephone: | (408) 924-5475 but email yields faster response |
| Email: | kerry.rohrmeier@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | 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 |
| 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. New course materials can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System at <http://sjsu.instructure.com> each Monday. 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, in-class exercises, 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

MLK Library subscribes to *CQ Researcher*. All required journal article readings are 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 (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.

- Active online participation is **weekly assignments** is imperative to your overall grade in this online course (51% of your total grade), and so frequent discussion and 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 per topic (GELO 1).
- **Student groups** will be tasked to lead an assigned CQ Researcher article (GELO 3). This will include preparation of summary slides on the reading along with supplementary materials to enhance said content. Once the online discussion forum goes live the student groups are responsible for not just adding individual responses, but also to moderate classmate posts. This includes commentary or further questioning. At the end of the week the student group will email a recap to the instructor. Students in the group earn the same grade unless the instructor is notified early on that members are not contributing equally.
- Links to several academy award winning **documentary films** are posted to complement readings. Twice 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 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 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 CQ Research articles assigned this term (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 two-part essay question. 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.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Geography is a fascinating and varied discipline. Learn more about Geographic Information Science from renowned speakers during the SJSU Center for Spatial Analytics and Visualization (SAVI) speaker series. Write a 500-word essay detailing interesting facts you gained from the webinar to earn 25-extra credit points. To encourage attendance, you may watch and write about both SAVI events to earn up to 50 extra credit points.

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 |
|--|-------------------|
| 17 Assignments | 510 (30 pts each) |
| Student Group (presentation, facilitation and recap) | 100 |
| Film Essay 1 | 50 |
| Film Essay 2 | 50 |
| Review Article | 200 |
| Final Exam | 90 |
| TOTAL | 1,000 |
| Optional Extra Credit Webinars + Essays | 50 (25 pts each) |

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.

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 readings are from *CQ Researcher* available for free through the MLK website. Films will be linked to the course canvas website.

| Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments |
|-----------|--|
| 1/3 | <p>GETTING STARTED</p> <p>Familiarize yourself with the course Canvas website, meet your groupmate, review the syllabus, check out all assignments and due dates, locate the readings on MLK Library and locate background materials in the Canvas ‘Files’ tab</p> <p>Assignment 1: Introductions</p> |
| 1/4 | <p>ELECTION</p> <p>Reading on the Electoral College, 2019</p> <p>Assignment 2: Discussion Forum</p> |
| 1/5 - 1/7 | <p>THEME 1: LARGE-SCALE THREATS TO HUMANITY</p> <p>Reading “The New Arms Race” 2020</p> <p>Assignment 3: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Reading “Climate Change and Health” 2019 (Group A)</p> <p>Assignment 4: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Reading “Cyberwarfare” 2020 (Group B)</p> <p>Assignment 5: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Film: <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 at 11:59pm on 1/7</p> |
| 1/8 -1/10 | <p>THEME 2: U.S. TRADE & GLOBALIZATION</p> <p>Reading on “Pandemic Economy” 2020 (Group C)</p> <p>Assignment 5: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Reading “U.S. Foreign Policy in Transition” 2019 (Group D)</p> <p>Assignment 6: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Reading on “European Union at a Crossroads” 2019 (Group E)</p> <p>Assignment 7: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Film: <i>American Factory</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 1/10</p> |

| Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments |
|-------------|--|
| 1/11- 1/13 | <p>THEME 3: BORDER POLICY</p> <p>Reading “Global Migration” 2020 (Group F) Assignment 8: Discussion Forum Assignment 9: Immigration Interview</p> <p>Reading “Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” 2018 (Group G) Assignment 10: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Film: <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 at 11:59pm on 1/13</p> |
| 1/14 - 1/15 | <p>THEME 4: TURMOIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST</p> <p>Reading “Saudi Arabia’s Uncertain Future” 2018 (Group H) Assignment 11: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Reading ‘US-Iran Relations’ 2019 (Group I) Assignment 12: Discussion Forum</p> <p>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 1/15</p> |
| 1/16 – 1/17 | <p>THEME 5: CHINA IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT</p> <p>Reading “China Rising” 2020 (Group J) Assignment 14: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Reading “China’s Belt and Road Initiative” 2019 (Group K) Assignment 15: 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 1/17</p> |
| 1/18-1/19 | <p>THEME 6: THE FUTURE</p> <p>Reading “Africa in Transition” 2018 Assignment 16: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Reading on “Future of Cash” 2019 Assignment 17: Discussion Forum</p> <p>Film: <i>Virunga</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 1/19</p> |

| Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments |
|-------------|---|
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| 1/20-1/21 | CLOSING Review Article Due at 11:59pm on 1/20 Final Exam Essay Due at 11:59pm on 1/21 |