

San José State University

College of Social Sciences, Department of Urban and Regional Planning GEOG107: Mapping the World

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Xiangyu Ren
Office Location:	Online
Email:	xiangyu.ren@sjsu.edu Wednesdays & Thursday, 1 pm - 2:00 PM on Zoom Meeting ID: 848 4482 1049
Office Hours:	Register in advance for this meeting: https://sjsu.zoom.us/join/84844821049
Class Days/Time:	Online (no scheduled meeting days or times)
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 R: Earth & Environment
Units	3

Course Descriptions

Scientific understanding of the physical systems and processes of Earth as explored through data and mapping, and an introduction to spatial analysis. A comprehensive survey of all the regions studied in geography: North and South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Pacific. In this survey of diverse global environments, students will create interactive web applications and story maps using ArcGIS Online to visually communicate the interrelationships between humans and their environment.

Course Format

This course is taught entirely online in an asynchronous format which means there are no scheduled meetings on Zoom. 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 modules can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System at <http://sjsu.instructure.com> each Monday morning. Students are responsible for regularly checking the website for announcements and updates.

Course Goals

This course emphasizes neogeography to survey Earth's contrasting landscapes and human-environmental interactions by world region. Students will explore the digital Earth and conduct research and mapping to communicate stories of resource extraction, scarcity, insecurity, and environmental degradation while also celebrating innovation, conservation, and cultural authenticity. Course readings, multimedia, assignments, and online discussions provide a deeper understanding of the complex interrelationship between humans and their world while honing critical, relational, and contextual thinking through maps. By the end of the course, a student can expect to understand the use of maps and geographic data to explain themes and geographic patterns and be able to understand the complexity of regional and global environmental and socio-economic problems.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

SJSU Studies Area R students will cultivate knowledge of the scientific study of the physical universe or its life forms. Students will understand and appreciate the interrelationship of science and human beings to each other.

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

- *GELO 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation.*

The story map, midterm, lab assignment, and assignments are designed to assess GELO 1. Writing Assignments, Virtual Explorations, and Map Critiques demonstrate the methods of scientific investigation.

- *GELO 2. Distinguish science from pseudo-science*

The Virtual Explorations, webinars, and assignments assess GELO 2. Assignment Distinguishes Science from Pseudo-Science.

- *GELO 3. Apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment.*

The story map, map critiques, final story map, and assignments are designed to assess GELO 3, applying a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment.

Required Materials

To reduce costs this course is taught using open-source textbooks, below are two free digital textbooks.

- Burgalee, Royal *World Regional Geography: People, Places and Globalization*. Saylor
- Guo, Haudong, Goodchild, Michael, and Annoni, Allesandro 2020. *Manual of Digital Earth*. Springe

The other recommended textbook of World Regional is below (available for purchase or by library loan in paperback, ebook, and audiobook formats).

- *Geography: Realms, Regions and Concepts (2010) 14th Edition* by Harm J. de Blij , Peter O. Muller

Technology

Students will use online software and an app this term

- An ESRI ArcGIS Online account login will be provided to your SJSU email during the first week of class. You can log in to the SJSU ArcGIS online portal <https://sjsugis.maps.arcgis.com/> using your SJSU 9-digit ID. ArcGIS Online is software that is accessible via the internet across platforms and devices. ArcGIS Online also provides the Story Mapping template to create the term project. <http://arcgisonline.com>.
- Google Earth will be used frequently to explore the world's regions.

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

Learning Modules

Each learning unit will be open to you at the starting date as shown on the course schedule and will remain available to you until the end of the course. **However, the quizzes and assignments**

in each module must be completed by the given due time for full points. Assignments submitted after the due time will be penalized 10% per day late and will not be accepted for evaluation after seven days. Please note this policy and arrange your time to study the modules and take the assignments accordingly.

For each module, you should go through the reading of the corresponding chapter in the textbook, finish quizzes, and explore the online websites provided to you in the supplemental material.

Assignments

- Active online participation means completing all readings, regional explorations, and course **assignments** provided in the weekly learning module (GELO 1, 2, 3). Assignments are described on the course schedule but please note that more detailed instructions will be announced on Canvas. Frequent online engagement with this course is expected to be successful.
- Exposure to and engagement with the larger geography discipline is important for formulating a breadth of spatial understanding. As such a virtual exploration and two guest lecture webinars have been assigned and will have prompts requiring written essay responses; both webinars will be recorded and posted to Canvas.
- Each student will select a regional Earth and Environment topic of interest that can be digitally mapped and will work over the term to create a compelling and original story map using ArcGIS Online. Effective cartographic visualization is an imperative skill in geography that can be applied to nearly every discipline and industry. When completed properly these stories contribute to a larger digital globe where audiences can traverse the Earth's landscape in ways no paper map or atlas allows. More instructions may be found on Canvas.

Midterm

In a written essay argue whether storing immense visual and spatial data records such as Google Maps is beneficial or invades privacy (1000 words).

Final Project

The final project of a comprehensive ArcGIS online story map replaces a traditional term paper but still requires considerable research and writing on a regional phenomenon worthy of greater public attention. At a minimum of 3,000 words, properly cited using APA format, the story map project is a substantial grade in this course. Students may only use reputable, high-quality GIS layers created by government agencies, nonprofits, academic departments, libraries, and the ArcGIS Online Living Atlas in their creations. These compiled sources must be credited and captioned appropriately to avoid plagiarism.

Grading Information

Assignments	Points Possible	Assessment
Ten (10) Assignments	300 (30-each)	GELO 1, 2, 3
Ten (10) Quizzes	150 (15-each)	GELO 1
Map Critiques	120 (40-each)	GELO 1, 2, 3
Geography Seminar Events	30	GELO 2
Midterm	100	GELO 1
Story Map Submission	300	GELO 1, 2, 3
TOTAL	1000	

SCALE:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>980 to 1000</i>	<i>98 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 979</i>	<i>93 to 97%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>

<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>600 to 659</i>	<i>60 to 66%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>500 to 599</i>	<i>50 to 59%</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>Less than 500</i>	<i><=50%</i>

All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, review their grade-dependent work, and be provided with explanations for determining their course grades. In keeping with this policy, and to make grading responsive. All assignments are due as stated on the Course Schedule and Canvas. Please save all your work until after you have checked your final course grade.

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 prerequisites 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. Area R courses have a minimum of 3,000 words of writing in a language and style appropriate for the discipline.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism in any form is 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. unacceptable and will merit a 0 for the assignment. Students who are suspected of cheating during an exam will be

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.

GEOG107 Mapping the World class schedule

This schedule outlines the main contents. Updates to labs, assignments, quizzes, and the supplemental material of each module will be made for each semester, so please check Canvas frequently for announcements.

Date	Main Contents
<i>Getting Started</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to GEOG107 Mapping the World• Read the syllabus, familiarize yourself with the course and Canvas system• Help Forum
	Regional Geography Basics
<i>Module 0:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get acquainted with interactive story maps.• Reading: Application of Geography to Biology Research• Textbook Reading
	EUROPE
<i>Module 1:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Europe.pdf• Explore Europe with interactive visualization• Textbook Reading
	MIDDLE AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN
<i>Module 2:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Middle_America.pdf• Explore Middle America with interactive visualization• -Textbook Reading• Story Map Instructions
<i>Module 3:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Russia_CentralAsia.pdf• Explore Russia & Central Asia with interactive visualization• -Textbook Reading
	GEOTECHNOLOGY & PSEUDOSCIENCE
<i>Module 4:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Textbook Reading
<i>Module 5:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUB-SAHARANAFRICA.pdf• Explore Sub-Saharan Africa with interactive visualization• -Textbook Reading

Date**Main Contents**

SOUTH AMERICA

- Module 6:*
- SouthAmerica.pdf
 - Explore South America with interactive visualization
 - -Textbook Reading
 - First Submission of Story Map

MID-TERM

- Module 7:*
- Textbook Reading
 - Mid-term Essay

SOUTH ASIA

- Module 8:*
- SOUTH_ASIA.pdf
 - Explore South Asia with interactive visualization
 - -Textbook Reading

EAST ASIA & SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Module 9:*
- EAST_ASIA_SOUTHEAST_ASIA.pdf
 - Explore East Asia & Southeast Asia with interactive visualization
 - -Textbook Reading
 - Map Critique 1

AUSTRALIA, OCEANIA & ANTARTICA

- Module 10:*
- AUSTRALIA_OCEANIA_ANTARCTICA.pdf
 - Explore Australia, Oceania & Antartica with interactive visualization
 - -Textbook Reading
 - Map Critique 2

NORTH AMERICA

- Module 11:*
- NORTH_AMERICA .pdf
 - Explore North America with interactive visualization
 - -Textbook Reading

NORTH AFRICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA & CENTRAL ASIA

- Module 12:*
- NORTHAFRICA_SOUTHWESTASIA .pdf
 - Explore North Africa, Southwest Asia & Central Asia with interactive visualization
 - -Textbook Reading
 - Map Critique 3

Date**Main Contents**

- Register and participate the SJSU GIS day

Final Due Dec. 13.

Module 14:

- Instructions of StoryMaps
- Final: The Final Version of Your StoryMap Submission