

San José State University
College of Social Sciences, Department of Urban and Regional Planning
48255, GEOG107: Mapping the World, Section 1, Fall 2020

Instructor:	Kerry Rohrmeier, PhD
Office Location:	WSQ 113-A but not on campus this semester
Telephone:	(408) 924-5475 but direct email yields faster response
Email:	kerry.rohrmeier@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 9:00-11:00 am on Zoom and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisite	Canvas
Units	Upper division standing or instructor consent
	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

From the SJSU catalog: Finding, preparing, and using maps, satellite and aerial images, and spatial data to create effective presentations. Includes a basic introduction to geographic visualization through cartography, geographic information systems, and remote sensing for professionals outside geography. (3-units)

Course Goals

There are many approaches to teaching a mapping the world course. The theme for this term is neogeography [meaning contemporary, and arguably democratized, Web 2.0 and GPS-enabled device mapping] to survey Earth's contrasting landscapes and people world region by world region. More specifically, students will develop story maps to examine places of peril and places of pleasure. By visually communicating the inequities of resource extraction, scarcity, security, and degradation while celebrating innovation, conservation, and cultural authenticity students will grasp physical and human realms. Course readings, multimedia, assignments, and online discussions will provide greater understanding of the complex interrelationship between humans and the Earth while honing critical, relational, and contextual thinking through cartography.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- CLO 1) Demonstrate understanding of and ability to analyze spatial relationships.

- CLO 2) Demonstrate understanding of, and ability to analyze and critique human and environment interactions.
- CLO 3) Define and use basic geography tools and techniques.
- CLO 4) Demonstrate ability to analyze and compare/contrast global regions.
- CLO 5) Demonstrate ability to read and understand research literature and engage in productive research activities.
- CLO 6) Demonstrate professional communication skills.

Required Texts/Readings

Readings

To reduce cost this course is taught using an open source textbook, Google Maps, Google Streetview, Google Earth, and other web content that is posted to weekly Canvas modules. As the course progresses through each world region students should refer to [World Regional Geography: People, Places and Globalization](#) by Royal Berglee.

One popular nonfiction book is required (available for low cost purchase or by library loan in paperback, e-book, and audiobook formats). *The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World* by Eric Weiner.

Technology

Students will use the following software and app.

- 1) An ESRI ArcGIS Online account login has been provided to your SJSU email from Dr. Jennifer Redd of SJSU e-campus
- 2) MapSwipe – a mapping ‘game’ for phones and tablets that has users identify roads and structures on aerial images in unmapped places on Earth. Playing mapswipe provides valuable data for humanitarian and emergency response efforts <http://mapswipe.org>

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.

Assignments

- 1) Active online **participation** means completing weekly assignments. Refer to the course schedule provided at the end of this syllabus to set expectations and know that more explicit directions will be announced each Monday on Canvas. Frequent online engagement with the course is expected to do well. In addition to posting individual responses in the discussion forum all students are expected to read their fellow classmates’ posts and reply to at least one other thread (CLO 4).
- 2) A popular **nonfiction book** has been selected to accompany academic readings. Student will present their own interpretation of the ‘geography of happiness’ through creative writing, performance, cartography, or artwork submission that will be included in a class exhibition (CLO5).
- 3) Each student will select a topic of interest and create an original **story map**. Effective cartographic visualization is an imperative skill in contemporary geography (CLO3 and CLO6). Creating a powerful story map weaves data, maps, narratives, [real time or recorded] multimedia, imagery and sound. When done properly human or physical geography stories become part of the digital globe so audiences traverse a landscape in ways no paper map or atlas can. This assignment replaces a traditional research paper but requires considerable research on a local, regional, or global phenomenon worthy of greater public attention.

As a substantial grade in this course (40% of the total) your story map should become a portfolio-worthy project to be revisited in your senior capstone course. Students may use reputable, high-quality GIS layers created by government agencies, NGOs, nonprofits, academic, ESRI Living Atlas, and Open Street Map so long as the compiled sources are credited and captioned appropriately. Students will peer-review and critique classmate story map submission.

- 4) Exposure to and engagement with the larger geographic discipline is important in formulating a breadth of spatial understanding (CLO1). As such a **virtual fieldtrip** to Stanford University’s David Rumsey Map Library and two **guest lecture webinars** have been assigned this term; both webinars will be recorded and posted to Canvas.

Midterm Examination

Google Earth, Google Streetview, and Google Maps are incredible resources for understanding our world but the posting human location (and their possessions) online is controversial. In a single written essay argue whether Google, as a for profit corporation, storing an immense record of the Earth’s public sphere is innocuous or invasive (CLO3).

Final Examination

GEOG107 Mapping the World is a study in human and physical geography organized into world regions. The final exam is a single essay explaining how neogeography both democratizes human understanding of the world but also furthers the digital divide (CLO2).

Grading Information

Assignments	Points Possible
Thirteen (13) Assignments	260 (20-each)
Six (6) Story Map Critiques	90 (15-each)
Two (2) Geography Webinar Events	60 (30-each)
David Rumsey Map Library Virtual Fieldtrip	25
<i>Geography of Bliss</i>	65
Story Map Submission	260
Revised Story Map Submission	100
Midterm Exam	70
Final Exam	70
TOTAL	1000

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. Please save all your work until after you have checked your final course grade.

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.

GEOG107 Mapping the World, Fall 2020

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice so please refer to Canvas often for announcements.

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments
8/19-8/22	GETTING STARTED 1. Read the syllabus 2. Familiarize yourself with the course Canvas website 3. Setup your software accounts and apps 4. Story Map Topic Signup Assignment 1: Introductions
8/24-8/29	REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY BASICS 1. Refresh your 'Intro to Human & Physical Geography' understanding by reviewing the background slides 2. Get acquainted with interactive story maps as an educational, visual communication, and spatial literacy tool 3. Take a Virtual Fieldtrip to the David Rumsey Map Library at Stanford University Assignment 2: Explore the ESRI Story Map Gallery
8/31-9/5	EUROPE 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Embark on regional virtual explorations linked to Canvas module Assignment 3: ArcGIS Online mapping places of pleasure and places of peril exercise
9/7-9/12	RUSSIA 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Embark on regional virtual explorations linked to Canvas module Assignment 4: Quiz on Remote Sensing and GIScience Applications
Middle America & Caribbean Story Maps Due by 11:59 pm on 9/13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puerto Rico Rebuilding and Recovery • Mayan Archeology • Architecture in Havana • Urban Life in the Maquiladoras 	
9/14-9/19	MIDDLE AMERICA & THE CARRIBEAN 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Read Zook et al. Volunteered Geographic Information and Crowdsourcing Disaster Relief: A Case Study of the Haitian Earthquake 3. Embark on regional virtual explorations linked to Canvas module Assignment 5: Play MapSwipe Map Critique 1: Peer review and critique a classmate's submitted story map
South America Story Maps Due by 11:59 pm on 9/20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South American Coronavirus Hotspot • Decimation of the Amazon Rainforest • Indigenous Cultures in the Andes • Charles Darwin's Galapagos 	
9/21-9/26	SOUTH AMERICA 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Embark on regional virtual explorations linked to Canvas module Assignment 6: forthcoming Map Critique 2: peer review and critique a classmate's submitted story map

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments
9/28-10/3	SAVI LAUNCH WEEK Webinar 1 : kickoff webinar by Provost Vincent del Casino and Ensheng Dong on 10/2 (11:30 am - 1:00 pm but also recorded)
Sub-Saharan Africa Story Maps Due by 11:59 pm on 10/4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaffordability in the City of Lunada, Angola • Indian Ocean Piracy • South African Townships & Homelands • The Endangered Khoisan Language 	
10/5-10/10	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Embark on regional virtual explorations linked to Canvas module 3. Read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean, Neal et al. Combining satellite imagery and machine learning to predict poverty • Hebblewhite, Mark and Daniel Haydon. Distinguishing technology from biology: a critical review of the use of GPS telemetry data in ecology Assignment 7 : Comparing ethnic boundaries, resource locations and African political boundaries on the Harvard Map series Map Critique 3 : peer review and critique a classmate's submitted story map
10/12-10/17	MIDTERM Submit your midterm exam essay by @ 11:59 pm on 10/17
North Africa & Southwest Asia Story Maps Due by 11:59 pm on 10/18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syrian Refugee Crisis • Jerusalem: The Cradle of Monotheism • Hajj Ephemerality and Ritual in Mecca 	
10/19-10/24	NORTH AFRICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA & CENTRAL ASIA 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Embark on regional virtual explorations linked to Canvas module Assignment 8 : forthcoming Map Critique 4 : peer review and critique a classmate's submitted story map
South Asia Story Maps Due by 11:59 pm on 10/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding in Bangladesh • Visiting Varanasi • Chittagong Shipbreaking 	
10/26-10/31	SOUTH ASIA 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Explore Mt Everest in 3D: Experience the trek to the summit 3. Read Gillespie et al. Finding Osama bin Laden: An application of biogeographic theories and satellite imagery. Assignment 9 : In an essay discuss the validity of Gillespie's student assignment and implications to ground based military action Map Critique 5 : peer review and critique a classmate's submitted story map
11/2-11/7	NORTH AMERICA *ELECTION MAPS* 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Embark on regional virtual explorations linked to Canvas module 3. Assignment 10 : forthcoming

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments
	<p>East Asia & SE Asia Story Maps Due by 11:59 pm on 11/8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fukushima Disaster • Kangbashi Ghost City • Comparing Two Koreas: Pyongyang & Seoul • eWaste Recycling • Indonesian Child Labor • Biodiversity vs Palm Oil
11/9-11/14	<p>EAST ASIA & SOUTHEAST ASIA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Embark on regional virtual explorations linked to Canvas module <p>Assignment 11: forthcoming Map Critique 6: peer review and critique a classmate's submitted story map</p>
11/16-11/21	<p>GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK / GIS DAY</p> <p>Celebrate geography as a fascinating and varied academic discipline by participating in exciting campus events</p> <p>Assignment 12: View and Vote on the SJSU Student Story Map Showcase Webinar 2: SJSU GIS Day speaker Dr. John Cruel on 11/18 (details tba)</p>
11/23-11/29	<p>THANKSGIVING WEEK</p> <p>Even if the USA ranks low on happiness there is much to be grateful for by global comparison. Respond with critical thought to the Geography of Bliss assignment</p>
11/30-12/5	<p>AUSTRALIA, OCEANIA & ANTARCTICA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review regional background slides and textbook chapter 2. Embark on these regional virtual explorations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral Bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef • Emperor Penguins in the Antarctic • Peopling the South Pacific • Exploring Easter Island <p>Assignment 13: forthcoming</p>
	<p>Revised Story Map Due by 11:59pm on 12/5</p>
Final	<p>FINAL EXAM</p> <p>Submit your final exam essay by 11:59 pm on 12/12</p>