

# The United States Section 80

## GEOG 140

Fall 2024 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 08/21/2024

### Contact Information

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Instructor: Eileen Pena

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#### Office Hours

Office Hours Tuesdays 2-4pm

Zoom

### Course Description and Requisites

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Geography of the U.S. emphasizing the continuing changes of America's places and regions. Themes include environmental, culture, economic, and social geographies at community, regional and national scales. GE Area: S.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

Letter Graded

### Classroom Protocols

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- **ATTENDANCE** in our online class is required. You must log in at least once a week, or you will be dropped from the course.
- All weekly assignments, quizzes, **EXAMINATIONS** must be taken at the scheduled time. **Make-up exams** are not allowed. Complete the work by the due date, or accept loss of points.
- **STUDENT CONDUCT:**
- Everyone in the classroom is expected to be civil and courteous. We will not always agree with the perspectives and opinions shared in the classroom, but I do expect that we will treat each other with respect.

- No form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. You are probably a conscientious student who would never think of cheating, but less prudent students found cheating will receive zero points on the exam/assignment and in case of recurrence, an F in the course and/or academic discipline or dismissal from the university.

## Program Information

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Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

**Goal 1:** To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

**Goal 2:** To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

**Goal 3:** To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website \(https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

## Course Goals

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SLO 1: Students will be able to place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

SLO 2: Students will be able to identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.

SLO 3: Students will be able to evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

SLO 4: Students will be able to compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems.

### GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes (LO)

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

L01—Students shall be able to identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation. Geog 101 deals with these skills and issues in nearly every class meeting and they are assessed in the writing assignments and the final exam.

L02—Students will be able to place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. Geog 101 deals with these skills and issues in nearly every class meeting and they are assessed in the writing assignments, class discussions, and the final exam.

L03—Students will be able to identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them. Geog 101 deals with these skills and issues in every class meeting and they are assessed in the writing assignments and the final exam.

L04—Students will be able to evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. Geog 101 deals with these skills and issues in every class meeting and they are assessed in the writing assignments, class discussions, and the final exam.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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### **GE Area S: Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S.**

SJSU Studies courses -- Areas R, S, and V -- help students integrate knowledge between and among disciplines. In Area S courses, students study the interrelationships of individuals, racial groups, and cultural groups to understand and appreciate issues of diversity, inclusion, inequalities, and justice in the United States.

### **GE Area S Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of an Area S course, students should be able to:

1. describe how identities are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality. Examples include, but are not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, disability status, age, generation, regional origin, national identity, language, and intersectionalities;
2. analyze historical, economic, political, or social processes that shape diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S. and reflect on one's own identities and positions within these structures;
3. evaluate social actions which have or have not led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S.; and
4. engage in constructive interactions about social issues in the U.S. within the framework of equality and inequalities.

**Writing Practice:** Students will write a minimum of 3000 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

## Course Materials

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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 Canvas for announcements and updates. Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found in Canvas. You are responsible for having your current contact information in MySJSU so that you can receive any important class announcements sent from there by the instructor.

No textbook required.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

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**Assignments including quizzes and exams will not be accepted late.** Students must work ahead of the due date 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. Final Examination or Evaluation (Paper).

## Grading Information

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Midterm Exam	100 points
Map activities and/or quizzes (10 worth 10 points each)	100 points
Discussions and/or assignments (10 worth 10 points each)	100 points
Miscellaneous assignments	100 points
Paper	100 points
<b>Total points available</b>	<b>500 points</b>

Percentage	Total Points	Letter Grade
95-100%	475-500	A
90-95%	450- 474	A-
87-89 %	435-449	B+
83-86%	415-434	B
80-82%	400-414	B-
73-79 %	365-399	C+
67-72%	335-364	C
60-66%	300-334	C-
57-59 %	285-299	D+
50-56%	250-284	D
Less than 50 %	Less than 250	F

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Course Schedule

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Week #	Dates	Topics and Major Assignments/Tests

1	8/21-8/25	Introduction to Geography
2	8/26-9/1	Overview of Geography of the United States
3	9/2-9/8	California
4	9/9-9/15	Alaska
5	9/16-9/22	Hawaii
6	9/23-9/29	The Northwest
7	9/30-10/6	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
8	10/7-10/13	The Midwest
9	10/14-10/20	North Central
10	10/21-10/27	<b>U.S. Territories</b>
11	10/28-11/3	The Northeast
12	11/4-11/10	The Southwest
13	11/11-11/17	South Central
14	11/18-11/24	The Southeast
15	11/25-12/1	The Leftovers / Review
16	12/2-12/8	How to Keep Geography in Your Life

17	12/9-12/15	Final Exam Paper due
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### **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 SJSU 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. 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 learning 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 small group 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. [Writing Center website](#)

### **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>