

George Mason University
Department of Geography & Geoinformation Science

GGG 101-005: MAJOR WORLD REGIONS - Fall 2024

Name	: Maction Komwa, PhD	Meeting Times	MW – 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm
Office	: Exploratory Hall, Room 2414	Location	Horizon Hall – 3012
Email	: mkomwa@gmu.edu	Office hours	Wednesday [10:30 am - 11:30 AM Thursday- 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM or by Appointment
Phone	: 703-993-5646	Credits	3.00

Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA)

Name: Zheng Gong

Email: zgong@gmu.edu Office: Exploratory Hall - Exploratory Hall 1102-J

Office Hours: Tuesday from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM | Thursday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Learning Assistant (LA)

Name: Meghan Drzewiecki

Email: mdrzewie@gmu.edu Office: Exploratory Hall - 2400 – Cubicle #D Office Hours: **TBA**

Name: Himesh Duddala

Email: hduddala@gmu.edu Office: Exploratory Hall - 2400 – Cubicle #D Office Hours: **TBA**

Course Description:

This course is designed as an introduction to the discipline of geography. Students will gain knowledge on the patterns, problems, prospects of the world’s principal human-geographic regions and the role of geographic differences in interpreting world current scene. The course emphasizes a real differentiation, similarities of these world regions and how they interact/interrelate to another in today’s globalizing world. The skills and knowledge gained from this course will become the basis for students to ask critical geographic questions about various geographic processes, features, patterns on the landscape at different scales.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon completing a Global Contexts course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain how patterns of global connections across nations and/or cultures have shaped societies to create interdependence and inequality.
- Use a disciplinary lens to demonstrate knowledge of how at least one nation and/or culture participates in or is affected by global contexts.
- Apply an understanding of one’s own positionality within a globally interdependent and unequal world to analyze solutions to global problems.
- Compare and contrast different places or regions based on their geographic characteristics.

Mason Core: This course is part of the Mason Core curriculum and fulfills requirements for Global Contexts.

Global Contexts

The Global Contexts (GC) Mason Core requirement is to enable students to explore global connections through a disciplinary lens and to understand how global systems have created both interdependence and inequalities that engaged citizens must understand in order to work toward an equitable and sustainable future.

Required Textbook

Title: Diversity Amid Globalization: <i>World Regions, Environment, Development</i>	Mastering Geography Options Mastering Geography (with eBook and Learning Catalytics) ISBN: 9780134610788
Edition: 7 th Author: Rowntree	Mastering Geography (with eBook and Learning Catalytics) Direct Purchase option (no ISBN) offered during registration To register for Mastering Geography, please refer to the instructions posted on Blackboard.

Learning Management Systems

- This Blackboard is our course management system which provides access to course materials, assignments, and class discussions. You will log in to Blackboard using your George Mason username and password through this link: <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>.
- If you have computer problems, please contact ITS Support Center: <http://itservices.gmu.edu>;
- Email: support@gmu.edu; | Phone: 703-993-8870.

Course Activities

This course is packed with interactive online pre-work, in-class sessions that'll blow your mind, and post-class activities where you'll team up with awesome classmates. Delve into assigned readings, spearhead engaging Blackboard discussions, and collaborate effectively on teamwork projects with your peers. Earning points is easy as pie: just show up, read, speak up, team up, and meet those deadlines outlined in this syllabus!

Assignments and Evaluation

Students are expected to submit high quality assignments during this course via the Blackboard.

Map Quizzes & Exercises (150 points)

- In these Map Exercise Assignments, students will explore a series of maps and charts that showcase one world region at a time. These resources visually represent geographic information, highlighting both the commonalities (climates, language systems, etc.) within and between regions and the disparities and inequalities that exist. Examples include: Human Development Index scores, carbon emissions, climate vulnerability, social indicators such as average life span of a person in a particular country or region, economic indicators (e.g. GDP) income inequality, gender disparities in education (as measured by mean years of schooling for boys and girls), and global displacement patterns (such as the flows of asylee seekers and refugees from different countries across the globe), environmental indicators (e.g. Carbon footprint, water scarcity, biodiversity loss), etc.

B. Mastering Geography Assignments (200 points)

- Mastering Geography is an indispensable tool for this geography course. As an online platform, it offers interactive and immersive learning experiences that empower students to grasp geographic concepts and explore diverse locations and topics. By engaging with world-class content, students can develop a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of our planet and prepare for success in their academic pursuits and beyond. In addition to the map exercises, you will also complete assignments from this interactive platform.

C. Examination (400 points)

- **Three Exams** will be administered. [Exam 1; Mid-Term and Final Exam]
- Exams will comprise of Multiple- Choice-Questions, True/False Questions and Fill-in-the blank questions.
- The final exam date is strictly fixed and cannot be changed for personal reasons. For unexpected emergencies, contact the instructor immediately for potential accommodations.
 - **EXAM I & Mid Term (100 points each) = 200 Points**
 - **Final Exam [200 points] NO MAKEUP EXAMS** will be given without supporting documents.

D. Final Group Presentation on Global Context [150 points]

- By the end of the semester, you will demonstrate your understanding of global context through a group project. Working in teams of five, you will receive detailed instructions via Blackboard. Your task is to select one of the following global issues:
 - Climate change, Global inequality, Migration patterns, or Globalization and cultural exchange. Research and analyze the issue from a regional perspective, considering its manifestations, causes, consequences, interconnections, and potential solutions.
 - Create a 10-minute presentation that effectively communicates your findings, including a clear introduction, detailed analysis, discussion of interconnections, and a conclusion with recommendations

E. In-class activities, small group discussion and Participation – 100 points

- This will involve students engaging in short, group discussions, Kahoot Games guided by the LA, etc. [Easy grade to get – show your willingness to learn!]

Late/Make-up Assignments Policy

- Stick to the schedule! Due dates are listed clearly in the syllabus and Blackboard. But "**life happens,**" so you have two **flex days** to submit up to two assignments up to 2 days late (no penalty). After that, late penalties apply - 5 points per day, down to zero (no grade).

Grading Scale

Percentage Range	Grade Points Cutoffs	Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Grade Points Cutoffs	Letter Grade
>=98%	980 - 1000	A+	77 -79.9%	770 - 799	C+
93 – 97.9%	930– 979	A	70 -76.9%	700 - 769	C
90 – 92.9%	900– 929	A-	60 – 69.9%	600 - 699	D
87 – 89.9%	870 - 899	B+	<60%	0-599	F
83 – 86.9%	830 - 869	B			
80 – 82.9%	800- 829	B-			<i>Note: There is No C-</i>

All students are expected to:

- Stay engaged with material, discussions, and deadlines.
- Respect classmates and express opinions courteously.
- Value and learn from diverse perspectives.
- Communicate clearly and professionally in writing.
- Emails: Strictly, use Mason Email Account. If you sent email from non-Mason account that email will not be read.

Recording and/or sharing class materials

All course materials posted to Blackboard are private to this class; by federal law, any materials that identify specific students (via their name, voice, or image) must NOT be shared with anyone not enrolled in this class.

- Electronic video, image capture, and/or audio recording is not permitted during in-class meeting, or online, unless the student obtains permission from the instructor.
- As a faculty member who will spend a lot of time creating course material for classroom use, unauthorized sharing of any of my course materials outside the class would violate important ethical standards.

Academic integrity:

- *The following statement is adapted from the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code, which you can read fully at the Office for Academic Integrity (<https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>). Acts of academic dishonesty in this course may be penalized with failure of either the work in question or the entire course.*

Students with Disabilities

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993- 2474.

GMU Nondiscrimination Policy

George Mason University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment free from any discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, pregnancy status, or genetic information. George Mason University shall adhere to all applicable state and federal equal opportunity/affirmative action statutes and regulations.

TITLE IX

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

Student Support Services

George Mason University has several academic support and other resources to facilitate your success. Some of these resources are presented below:

- i. Counseling and Psychological Services: <http://caps.gmu.edu/>
- ii. Learning Services, University Career Services: <http://careers.gmu.edu/>
- iii. The Writing Center <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>
- iv. University Catalog: <http://catalog.gmu.edu/>
- v. University Policies: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>

Tentative Course Calendar: *Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.*

Week	Date	Module Description	Readings	Assignment due by specified date(s) 11:59 pm
1	8/26	Course Overview	NA	Self-Introduction (9/1)
	8/28	Concepts of World Geography	Chapter 1	
2	9/2	Labor Day	Chapter 1	In-class Activities Kahoot Consequences Kahoot games will be announced during class
	9/4	Mapping Our World & Geographic Tools Globalization	Chapter 1	
3	9/9	Physical Geography & the Environment	Chapter 2	Mastering Geography [1] –9/15
	9/11	The Global Environment & Climate Change	Chapter 2	
4	9/16	Test 1	Test 1	Test 1
	9/18	Europe	Chapter 8	
5	9/23	Europe	Chapter 8	Map Exercises [1] 9/29
	9/25	Europe	Chapter 8	
6	9/30	Latin America	Chapter 4	Mastering Geography [2] – [10/6]
	10/2	Latin America	Chapter 4	
7	10/7	Latin America Exam Review	Chapter 4	Midterm
	10/9	Test 2 [Mid Term]	Midterm	
8	10/14	Fall break [No Classes]	No Classes	No Classes
	10/16	The Caribbean	Chapter 5	
9	10/21	The Caribbean Introduce Southwest Asia & North Africa	Chapter 5	Map Exercise/Quiz – [2] 10/20
	10/23	Southwest Asia and North Africa	Chapter 7	
10	10/28	Southwest Asia and North Africa	Chapter 7	Outline of Group Project
	10/30	Southwest Asia and North Africa Introduce Sub-Saharan Africa (Chp. 6)	Chapter 7	
11	11/4	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 6	Mastering Geography – [3] – 11/5
	11/6	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 6	
12	11/11	Sub-Saharan Africa /Start South Asia (Chp. 12)	Chapter 6	
	11/13	South Asia	Chapter 12	

Week	Date	Module Description	Readings	Assignment due by specified date(s) 11:59 pm
13	11/18	South Asia	Chapter 12	
	11/20	South Asia Start Australia & Oceania (Chp. 14)	Chapter 12	
14	11/25	Australia & Oceania	Chapter 14	Map Exercise/Quiz – [3] 11/24
	11/27	Thanksgiving Period– No Class		
15	12/2	Group Project Presentation: Global Context		
	12/4	Group Project Presentation: Global Context		
16	12/9	Final Review Session		
	12/11	Final Exam 1:30 pm – 4:15 pm		

Note:

Occasional impromptu group discussions, Kahoot games, and other class activities will be integrated throughout the course to augment learning and engagement. Your active participation in these activities is highly encouraged, as it directly contributes to your overall learning outcomes and participation grade (100 points). In-person attendance is strongly recommended to ensure seamless participation.