

Major World Regions

GGG 101__009 Fall 2025

Professor

Dr. Christine Rosenfeld
(she/her)

Email

crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours

Email to arrange.
2216 Exploratory Hall
or by [zoom](#)

Teaching Assistant

Nana Ama Obeng Nti
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Required Text

Finlayson, Caitlin. World
Regional Geography:
<https://worldgeo.pressbooks.com/> ***Free***

Student Expectations

- Come to class, interact, display respect
- Keep up with asynchronous content weekly
- Read email daily
- Reach out if you're stuck
- Communicate accommodations or concerns
- Obtain reliable access to a computer and internet
- Course materials are [private to this class](#)
- Use your GMU email account; include full name and course #

Meeting Time & Location

Tuesdays 10:30 am-11:45 am
5018 Horizon Hall in-person

Course Delivery

Hybrid in-person & asynchronous online via Canvas at canvas.gmu.edu

Course Description

This course provides a survey of cultural, physical, and societal aspects of major world regions. It examines how forces across various scales shape the character of place. It explores how regions differ from one another and interrelate in our globalizing world. Acquiring a familiarity with and a foundation in the geography of the world regions allows us to ask more critical questions about the unevenness of various geographical processes and patterns on the landscape in addition to reflecting on our own role in the larger world.

Satisfies the Mason Core Global Contexts Requirement.

Learning Outcomes

- Use geographic tools and data to profile place
- Identify the distribution of patterns of human and physical geographical features across the globe and describe the geographical processes that explain said patterns
- 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
- Explore individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical, practical, or creative responses to problems or issues, using resources appropriate to the field

Grade Point Cutoffs

A+	980-1000	B-	800-829
A	930-979	C+	780-799
A-	900-929	C	700-779
B+	880-899	D	600-699
B	830-879	F	0-599

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Grading/Requirements

100 pts, 10%

Participation

Regular in-person attendance and attention is required for in-person class periods. If you need to miss class, email the professor to make alternative arrangements. Failure to regularly attend class may result in a failing course grade.

250 pts, 25%

Mapping Exercises

You will complete 5 mapping exercises (50 points each) which include labeling countries and geographical features on maps in addition to responding to free response questions. There are 7 opportunities to complete mapping exercises. If you do 1 extra, the lowest grade will be dropped.

250 pts, 25%

Regional Trends Assignment

During the term, you will track news items being reported on in a certain world region and enter the information into a chart. You will create a write up of regional trends observed and create a map displaying a global world pattern

100 pts, 10%

Town Hall Assignment

You will prepare a stakeholder statement regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation, participate in a mock town hall, and post to the discussion board.

50 pts, 5%

Country Identification

While being observed by the professor or TA, you must correctly identify the location of any 50 countries on a blank map. You can complete this at any point during the semester and attempt it up to 3 times. This is an all or nothing assignment (i.e. you either earn full credit or no credit).

100 pts, 10%

Midterm

The midterm is multiple choice with a few short answer questions. Exam administered in person, on paper.

150 pts, 15%

Final Exam

The final exam is multiple choice with a few short answer questions and some map annotation. Exam administered in person, on paper. The only cumulative element relates to cross-regional comparison of major geographical features.

Late Work Policy

Each student starts with 3 late work tokens, which allow you to turn in a graded item up to 48 hours past the original due date without penalty. When using a late token, you do NOT need to email the professor or TA in advance; simply turn in the item on Canvas. Does not apply to exams.

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Academic Standards

George Mason University has academic standards with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity and all students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code. Cheating and/or plagiarism—passing off work as your own that is not—will result in an F for your final grade in this class. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism and familiarize yourself with the Honor Code. The official GMU policies are available from the Office of Academic Integrity: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/>. Please consult with me about questions **prior to turning in assignments.**

Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative AI tools is permitted in this class as long as it aligns with the learning outcomes or goals associated with assessments. You are fully responsible for the information you submit based on a generative AI query (such that it does not violate academic standards, intellectual property laws, or standards of non-public research you are conducting through coursework). Your use of generative AI tools must be properly documented

and cited for any work submitted in this course. [Here is how to cite AI.](#) *For any submitted work, no more than 20% of sources may be AI and no more than 20% of your written work may be directly quoted from any source, AI or not.* Assignments may ask you to triangulate AI-sourced information; if so, assignment directions will explain.

Diversity Statement & Accommodations

GMU promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study, and personal growth. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion (see [religious holiday calendar](#)), age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard, and respected. *Share your name and gender pronouns and how best to address you in class and via email and update your PatriotWeb profile.*

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. Students who are pregnant or experiencing pregnancy-related circumstances are welcome to reach out to the professor to discuss adjustments. The university directs you to the [Pregnant and Parenting Adjustment Form](#).

Additional Policies

See [Common Policies Addendum](#) linked here and on Canvas for a review of items including **Title IX**; **Diversity and Accommodations**; **FERPA**; and detailed **Academic Standards**.

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Course Schedule

Weeks	In-Class Meeting Day	Canvas Content	Class Meeting Content	Due by Sunday 11:59 pm (unless otherwise specified)
Week 1	8/26	Geographic Tools	Course Welcome	Mapping Exercise 1
Week 2	9/2	Anatomy of the Earth; Development & Economy	Population Pyramids	
Week 3	9/9	Europe Regional Orientation	Separatism in Europe	Mapping Exercise 2
Week 4	9/16	Russia & Central Asia Regional Orientation	Central Asian Culture	
Week 5	9/23	Russia & Central Asia Regional Orientation	Soviet Ecological Disasters	Mapping Exercise 3
Week 6	9/30	The Polar Realms	Scramble for the Arctic	
Week 7	10/7	Midterm Exam Review	Midterm Exam	
Week 8	10/14	Africa Regional Orientation	South Sudan & Sudan	
Week 9	10/21	Africa Regional Orientation	The Sahel; International Presence	Mapping Exercise 4
Week 10	10/28	Asia Regional Orientation	Climate Change in Asia Town Hall	Town Hall Stakeholder Statement due by class time Discussion post due Sunday
Week 11	11/4	Geopolitical Case Studies in Asia	NO CLASS MEETING	
Week 12	11/11	Southwest Asia	Economic Diversification	Mapping Exercise 6
Week 13	11/18	Latin America	Santería & Venezuela- Guyana	Mapping Exercise 7
Week 14	11/25	Catch Up Topics	NO CLASS MEETING	
Week 15	12/2	Final Exam Review	Final Exam	Country Identification due by exam time Regional Trends Assignment due Sunday