

GGSI01-Major World Regions DL3

SYLLABUS

Course Information

Course Number: GGS101DL3
Course Title: Major World Regions
Term: Spring 2025
Class Meetings: ONLINE
Location: ONLINE

Professor Contact Information

Professor: Piash Debnath, M.S.
Email: pdebnat2@gmu.edu
Office Hours: Thursday/Fridays 8-10am via Zoom
Teaching Assistant: Ronald Luna
Email: rluna5@gmu.edu

Course Description:

Patterns, problems, and prospects of the world's principal human-geographic regions. Emphasizes areal differentiation and role of geographic differences in interpreting current world scene.

Course Prerequisites: None

Required Textbooks (Available Free Online)

Title: World Regional Geography

Author: Caitlin Finlayson

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/world-regional-geography>

Grading Policy:

Mid-Term Exam (1)	20 points	20%
Final Exam (1)	20 points	20%
HW Exercises (3)	4 points each	12%
Discussion Board (3)	5 points each	15%
Map Quizzes (8)	each varies	6%
Final Project (1)	27 points	27%

Total Possible Points: 100 100%

Grading Scale:

A+	97	-	100%
A	96	-	90%
B+	87	-	89%
B	80	-	86%
C+	77	-	79%
C	70	-	76%
D	60	-	69%
F	59	-	0%

Course & Instructor Policies

Map Quizzes: There will be a map quiz for each region of the week. Students are expected to study and memorize the countries of the region before taking the quiz. The quizzes will consist of fill-in-the-blank questions and will account for 6% of the total semester grade. You will be provided with the outline or shape of each country relative to its region and must correctly identify it. It will be done via the lockdown browser.

Exams: There will be a Midterm and Final exam consisting of multiple choice and/or short answers, closed notes. Both Exams are worth 20% of the total grade. Respondus LockDown browser is required.

<https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/how-to-install-and-use-the-respondus-lockdown-browser/>

HW Assignments: There will be 3 HW Exercise assignments worth 4 points each. Submit as a word file.

Discussion Board: The Discussion Board will take place on Blackboard in essay format. Each Discussion will be worth 5 points with a total of 3 discussions. 3 points will be towards the Discussion essay.

Format: 750 words minimum, double spaced, and at least 2 references.

You can attach a word file or write directly on the discussion. 2 points are dedicated towards replying to 2 peers. The reply must be at least 4 sentences and directly discuss something from that person's essay.

Final Project: The Final Project will be worth 27 points total. The project will be an individual itinerary project. The topic country will be chosen by the student limited to **Europe or Asia**. Further instructions will follow on Blackboard under Syllabus & Docs. 2 points will be dedicated to Final Project Step 1 & 2, which will be assigned early in the semester. Submit as a word file.

Assignment Submission Policy: Assignments must be submitted on time. Late submissions will incur a 50% deduction if turned in within 24 hours of the due date. Assignments will not be accepted beyond 24 hours after the due date.

In case of emergencies, students must provide appropriate documentation or proof. As this is a fully asynchronous online course, extensions for emergencies are not guaranteed. Students are expected to notify the professor via email as soon as an emergency arises, rather than waiting until a few hours before or after the due date. Extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Online Conduct and Communication: Students are expected to maintain a respectful and professional online environment. Interactions with classmates should be appropriate and courteous.

When emailing the professor, please follow proper email etiquette. Include:

- A greeting (e.g., "Good afternoon, Professor"),
- A clear subject line (e.g., "Exercise 2 Help"),
- A signature (e.g., "Best regards, Jane Doe"),
- The course number (e.g., "GGS 101 DL3").

All email communication must be sent using your university email account. Direct messages via Blackboard are not permitted.

Technical Requirements and Responsibilities: Students must ensure they have a stable internet connection throughout the semester. Any tests or quizzes interrupted due to connection issues may result in automatic submission and a grade of zero. A reliable laptop is required for this fully online course. Technical issues, such as laptop malfunctions or battery failure, are not valid excuses for resubmitting quizzes, exams, or assignments.

When submitting assignments, it is the student's responsibility to preview the submission to ensure the correct format and file have been uploaded.

The following software is required for this course: Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Google Earth. All assignments must be submitted in Word format (.doc or .docx) unless otherwise specified. Files submitted in unsupported formats, such as .pages, will not be accepted.

Important Dates:

Last day to drop with a tuition refund	Feb 4th
Unrestricted withdrawal last day	Feb 25th
Selective withdrawal last day	Mar 31st
Last day of class	May 5th

Plagiarism, Honor Code, and AI Policy: Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Students are expected to complete their own work. When citing sources, please use APA format and refer to the school’s plagiarism policy for guidance.

All exams must be taken using the Respondus LockDown Browser, adhering to its rules. This includes prohibitions on the use of phones, dual screens, or other unauthorized devices. Continuous red flags generated during exams by the LockDown Browser may result in an honor code violation if not addressed appropriately.

The use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, is strictly prohibited for completing assignments. Violations of this policy will be treated as academic dishonesty. Additionally, providing false information, such as fake doctor’s notes or misleading emails to gain special accommodations, constitutes a violation of the honor code.

Academic Standards

Academic Standards exist to promote authentic scholarship, support the institution’s goal of maintaining high standards of academic excellence, and encourage continued ethical behavior of faculty and students to cultivate an educational community which values integrity and produces graduates who carry this commitment forward into professional practice.

As members of the George Mason University community, we are committed to fostering an environment of trust, respect, and scholarly excellence. Our academic standards are the foundation of this commitment, guiding our behavior and interactions within this academic community. The practices for implementing these standards adapt to modern practices, disciplinary contexts, and technological advancements. Our standards are embodied in our courses, policies, and scholarship, and are upheld in the following principles:

- **Honesty:** Providing accurate information in all academic endeavors, including communications, assignments, and examinations.
- **Acknowledgement:** Giving proper credit for all contributions to one’s work. This involves the use of accurate citations and references for any ideas, words, or materials created by others in the style appropriate to the discipline. It also includes acknowledging shared authorship in group projects, co-authored pieces, and project reports.
- **Uniqueness of Work:** Ensuring that all submitted work is the result of one’s own effort and is original, including free from self-plagiarism. This principle extends to written assignments, code, presentations, exams, and all other forms of academic work.

Violations of these standards—including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating—are taken seriously and will be addressed in accordance with university policies. The process for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating violations is outlined in the university’s procedures. Consequences of violations may include academic sanctions, disciplinary actions, and other measures necessary to uphold the integrity of our academic community.

The principles outlined in these academic standards reflect our collective commitment to upholding the highest standards of honesty, acknowledgement, and uniqueness of work. By adhering to these principles, we ensure the continued excellence and integrity of George Mason University’s academic community.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for understanding how these general expectations regarding academic standards apply to each course, assignment, or exam they participate in; students should ask their instructor for clarification on any aspect that is not clear to them.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit <https://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu. Phone: (703) 993-2474.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for registering with Disability Services and communicating about their approved accommodations with their instructor *in advance* of any relevant class meeting, assignment, or exam.

FERPA and Use of GMU Email Addresses for Course Communication

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) governs the disclosure of education records for eligible students and is an essential aspect of any course. **Students must use their GMU email account** to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. Instructors will not respond to messages sent from or send messages regarding course content to a non-GMU email address.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for checking their GMU email regularly for course-related information, and/or ensuring that GMU email messages are forwarded to an account they do check.

Title IX Resources and Required Reporting

As a part of George Mason University's commitment to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities. Accordingly, **all non-confidential employees, including your faculty member, have a legal requirement to report to the Title IX Coordinator, all relevant details obtained directly or indirectly about any incident of Prohibited Conduct** (such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, gender-based stalking, dating/domestic violence). Upon notifying the Title IX Coordinator of possible Prohibited Conduct, the Title IX Coordinator will assess the report and determine if outreach is required. If outreach is required, the individual the report is about (the "Complainant") will receive a communication, likely in the form of an email, offering that person the option to meet with a representative of the Title IX office.

For more information about non-confidential employees, resources, and Prohibited Conduct, please see University Policy 1202: Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence. Questions regarding Title IX can be directed to the Title IX Coordinator via email to TitleIX@gmu.edu, by phone at 703-993-8730, or in person on the Fairfax campus in Aquia 373.

Student opportunity: If you prefer to speak to someone *confidentially*, please contact one of Mason's confidential employees in Student Support and Advocacy (SSAC), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Student Health Services (SHS), and/or the Office of the University Ombudsperson.

Date Every Week starts Monday morning 6am to Sunday 11:59pm	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due : All Weekly Assignments due Sunday 11:59pm
Week 1 Jan 21st-26th	Syllabus Week	Syllabus Get Familiar with Blackboard	Orientation Quiz & Introductions
Week 2 Jan 27th-Feb 2nd	Geography Intro	Chapter 1	HW Exercise 1
Week 3 Feb 3rd-9th	Europe	Chapter 2	Final Project Step 1 Map Quiz
Week 4 Feb 10th-16th	Russia	Chapter 3	Discussion 1 Map Quiz
Week 5 Feb 17th-23rd	North America	Chapter 4	HW Exercise 2 Map Quiz
Week 6 Feb 24th-Mar 2nd	Middle & South America	Chapter 5	Map Quiz
Week 7 Mar 3rd-9th	Midterm Week EXAM OPEN MAR 6th-9th	Review	Final Project Step 2 Midterm
Week 8 Mar 10th-16th	SPRING BREAK	None	NONE
Week 9 Mar 17th-23rd	Sub-Saharan African Africa	Chapter 6	Discussion 2 Map Quiz
Week 10 Mar 24th-30th	North Africa and Southwest Asia	Chapter 7	Map Quiz
Week 11 Mar 31st-Apr 6th	South Asia	Chapter 8	Exercise 3 Map Quiz
Week 12 Apr 7th-13th	East & Southeast Asia	Chapter 9	Map Quiz
Week 13 Apr 14th-20th	Oceania	Chapter 10	Map Quiz Discussion 3
Week 14 Apr 21st-27th	FINAL PROJECTS	None	FINAL PROJECTS
Week 15 & 16 Apr 28th-May 5th	Review & Final Exam EXAM OPEN May 1st- 4th	None	Final Exam

*Dates and assignments are subject to change. Please check Blackboard for up to date readings and assignments