

GGSI01-Major World Regions

SYLLABUS

Course Information

Course Number: GGS101DL1 DL7
Course Title: Major World Regions
Term: Fall 2024
Class Meetings: ONLINE Asynchronous
Location: ONLINE

Professor Contact Information

Professor: Piash Debnath, M.S.
Email: pdebnat2@gmu.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment/Zoom
Teaching Assistant: **Nana Ama Obeng Nti**
Email: nobengnt@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

Mason Core:

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

Mason Core is Mason's general education program that builds the foundation for the Mason Graduate – an engaged citizen and well-rounded scholar who is prepared to act. Mason Core is a set of required courses that create the foundation of a student's undergraduate degree. It provides a breadth of liberal education courses, complementing the depth of knowledge and skills students build in their majors and minors. All undergraduates seeking a baccalaureate degree must complete

Mason Core requirements. Mason Core prepares students for work in their majors and minors, for their careers, and for life-long learning. Foundation courses build key knowledge and skills needed for academic success. Exploration courses provide a breadth of learning across the university. Integration courses include upper-division courses that are designed to integrate knowledge and skills learned from Foundation and Exploration courses into the major. Courses are designed around learning outcomes that help develop the qualities we expect of all students graduating with a Bachelor's degree from George Mason University.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Identify and explain how patterns of global connections across nations and/or cultures have shaped societies to create interdependence and inequality.
2. Use a disciplinary lens to demonstrate knowledge of how at least one nation and/or culture participates in or is affected by global contexts.
3. Apply an understanding of one's own positionality within a globally interdependent and unequal world to analyze solutions to global problems.

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%
<hr/>		
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 per each region of the week. Students are expected to first study and memorize each regional countries before taking the quiz. The quizzes will consist of short answers and/or multiple choice worth 6% total of the semester grade.

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**. Cannot choose the example (Italy). 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.

Late Assignments: Late Assignments are strictly NOT accepted unless there is **prior** approval. Please see announcements and class schedule for detailed due dates. Any assignment turned in after the due date of 11:59pm will result in an automatic 0. Any last-minute emergency within 12 hours of the due date must require a note/proof.

Classroom Netiquette:

It is expected that the online environmental is respectful and proper. Interactions with classmates online should be in appropriate manners. When emailing the professor there should be a greeting (e.g. Good afternoon Professor), a Subject for the email (e.g. Exercise 2 help), a signature at the end (e.g. Best, Jane Doe), and the course number (E.g. GGS 101 DL1).

Technology Requirements:

Make sure you have **strong** internet access throughout the semester. Tests/Quizzes where connection is lost may result in a 0 as they may automatically submit. A reliable laptop is a requirement for this online course. Microsoft Word, PPT, and Google Earth is also required. Submit all assignments in word, unless otherwise specified. Please **do not** submit **.pages or other format files**.

Important Dates:

Last day to drop with a tuition refund	Sept 9th
Unrestricted withdrawal last day	Oct 1st
Selective withdrawal last day	Oct 28th
End of Exam period	Dec 18th

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Make sure to complete your own work. When doing citations please use **APA**. Please refer to the school's plagiarism codes.

American with Disabilities Act

If you think or know that you need an accommodation based on a disability, you are encouraged to contact a counselor for Disability Services in the Counseling Center to discuss possible accommodations. All information is kept confidential and may increase your chances of success in the class.

Date Every Week starts Monday morning 6am to Sunday 11:59pm	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due : All Weekly Assignments due Sunday 11:59pm
Week 1 Aug 26th-Sept 1st	Syllabus Week	Syllabus Get Familiar with Blackboard	Orientation Quiz & Introductions
Week 2 Sept 2nd-8th	Geography Intro	Chapter 1	HW Exercise 1
Week 3 Sept 9 th -15 th	Europe	Chapter 2	Final Project Step 1 Map Quiz
Week 4 Sept 16 th -22 nd	Russia	Chapter 3	Discussion 1 Map Quiz
Week 5 Sept 23 rd -29 th	North America	Chapter 4	HW Exercise 2 Map Quiz
Week 6 Sept 30 th -Oct 6 th	Middle & South America	Chapter 5	Map Quiz
Week 7 Oct 7 th - 13 th	Midterm Week EXAM OPEN Oct 10-13	Review	Final Project Step 2 Midterm
Week 8 Oct 14 th -20 th	Fall Break Oct 14th Sub-Saharan African Africa	Chapter 6	Map Quiz
Week 9 Oct 21 st – 27 th	North Africa and Southwest Asia	Chapter 7	Map Quiz Discussion 2
Week 10 Oct 28 th – Nov 3 rd	South Asia	Chapter 8	Exercise 3 Map Quiz
Week 11 Nov 4 th - 10 th	East & Southeast Asia Election Day -Nov 5 th	Chapter 9	Map Quiz
Week 12 Nov 11 th - 17 th	Oceania	Chapter 10	Map Quiz Discussion 3
Week 13 Nov 18 th - 24 th	FINAL PROJECTS	None	FINAL PROJECTS
Week 14 Nov 25 th - Dec 1 st	THANKGIVING BREAK	NONE	NONE
Week 15 & 16 Dec 2 nd – 8 th	Review & Final Exam EXAM OPEN Dec 5- 8th	None	Final Exam

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