

Human Geography

GGS 103__1D1

Course Delivery

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

In-Person Meeting

Thurs, 10:30-11:45 am
206 Innovation Hall

Professor

Dr. Christine Rosenfeld
(she/her)

Email

crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours

By appointment, email to arrange

2216 Exploratory Hall
or by [zoom](#)

Teaching Assistant

Casey Yuan (*she/her*)
myuan5@gmu.edu

Learning Assistant

Creighton Dunlap
(*she/her*)
cdunlap6@gmu.edu
Office Hours TBA

Student Expectations

- Read email daily
- Attend class
- Reach out if you're stuck
- Display respect

Course Description

Human geography investigates how human activities are connected to and interact with place. How does place influence people, and vice versa? What are the effects of global processes at the local scale? How is human activity—agricultural practices, industrialization, etc.—spatially distributed? Why do certain patterns of human activity exist on the landscape in the way that they do? Human geographers are committed to understanding the spatial distribution of human activity and humans' relationships with place in order to identify, interrogate, and reduce social inequalities. This course satisfies the Mason Core Social and Behavioral Sciences Requirement.

Required Text

Rosenfeld, Christine & Burtch, Nathan. Human Geography: <https://humangeog.pressbooks.com/> **Free**

Learning Outcomes

- Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors
- Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs
- Use appropriate methods and resources to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles and theories in the analysis of significant human issues, past or present
- Use geographic tools and data sources to interpret the distribution of spatial phenomena, especially the unequal distribution of phenomena
- Explain how people are influenced by contextual factors and interact with their surrounding physical and socio-cultural environments and landscapes
- Regarding the relationship between human activity and space, place, and landscape, ask and answer: Why this, here? Why that, there?
- Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs

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Grading/Requirements

Submit all on Canvas.

100 pts, 10%

Participation & Activities

You are required to participate in class and complete activities occurring during class. Activities occur most but not all weeks and may include things like: mock town hall, group work, worksheet, unit assessment, exam review, etc. Email the professor if you need to miss class. Failure to regularly attend class may result in a failing course grade.

200 pts

I Spy Geography Assignments

You will complete 8 (25 points each) assignments where you choose a topic covered in the weekly asynchronous learning resources, find a news article that relates, and explain the connection.

100 pts

From the Field Videos

You will create 2 (50 points each) from the field video snippets where you will document in real life a human geography topic. Collectively, the class will create a video glossary of various terms/concepts.

200 pts

StoryMap Project and Discussion Board

You will create a StoryMap (150 pts), an annotated online map with place markers (no mapping experience required) of a cultural landscape. You will display your StoryMap during an in-class Gallery Walk and chat with classmates. You will post your storymap to a discussion board and reply to classmates (50 pts).

400 pts, 40%

Exams

There are 2 exams. The second exam is not cumulative. Each is a mix of multiple choice, T/F, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer.

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

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 in advance; simply turn in/complete your item on Canvas.

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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.

Miscellaneous

- 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 #.

Additional Resources

- See [Common Policies Addendum](#) on Canvas.

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 (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

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. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474. 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](#).

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Course Schedule

Weeks	In-Class Meeting (Thurs)	Canvas Content to Review <i>BEFORE</i> In-Person Class	Class Meeting Focus	Due by Thurs 10:30 am	Due by Sun 11:59 pm
Week 1	1/23	Canvas Orientation	Course Welcome California Fires		
Week 2	1/30	Urban Geography I: Urban Origins & Form	California Fires & Wildland-Urban Interface	I Spy Geography	
Week 3	2/6	Urban Geography II: Suburbs & Slums	Redlining	I Spy Geography	
Week 4	2/13	Political Geography I: Separatism	Various Case Studies	I Spy Geography	
Week 5	2/20	Political Geography II: Boundary Disputes	Various Case Studies		From The Field Video
Week 6	2/27	Exam Review	EXAM 1		
Week 7	3/6	Population Geography	Age-Sex Pyramids	I Spy Geography	
Week 8	3/13	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK		
Week 9	3/20	Migration Geography	Various Case Studies	I Spy Geography	
Week 10	3/27	Language Geography I		I Spy Geography	
Week 11	4/3	Language Geography II		I Spy Geography	
Week 12	4/10	Cultural Geography I			From The Field Video
Week 13	4/17	Religious Geography		I Spy Geography	
Week 14	4/24	Exam Review	EXAM 2		
Week 15	5/1	Cultural Geography II	StoryMap Gallery Walk	StoryMap	StoryMap Discussion