

Geography of Virginia

GGG 380__DL1

Professor

Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Email

crosefne@gmu.edu

Office Hours

By [zoom](#) appointment,
email to arrange

Course Delivery

Asynchronous Online via Blackboard

Course Description

This course takes a thematic approach to covering the state of Virginia and its surrounding region. Collectively, themes covered touch on the socio-cultural, historical, economic, political, and physical geographic layers to particular areas of the state. Additionally, this course is grounded in qualitative methods reflected both by the selected readings and the time spent highlighting various qualitative methods like interviews, archival analysis, mental maps, etc. Students fuse these two elements of the course in a culminating traditional research paper.

Required Text

All texts are free and accessible on Blackboard.

Student Expectations

- Read email daily
- Reach out if you're stuck
- Display respect while interacting online
- Don't plagiarize— if it doesn't adversely affect you now, it will later in more impactful ways

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze environmental and social threats to and changes in various sub-regions of Virginia
- Explain the historical development of Virginia
- Describe Native Virginia landscapes
- Critique (post)-Confederate Virginia landscapes
- Describe how to use various qualitative methods and practice data collection and analysis
- Formulate a research question, conduct a literature review, and conduct qualitative research about an issue facing Virginia

Geography of Virginia

GGG 380__DL1

Grading/Requirements

50 pts, 5%

Mental Map

You will complete 1 mental map, which include creating a mental map, posting it on the discussion board, and replying to classmates.

130 pts, 13%

Methods Worksheets

You will complete 2 methods worksheets (65 points each), which may include conducting or simulating qualitative methods and/or analysis.

125 pts, 12.5%

Social Annotations

You will complete 5 social annotations (25 points each), which include comments made to assigned readings using the Perusall application available through BB.

240 pts, 24%

Field Note & Guided Tour Assignments

You will complete 4 field note and 2 guided tour assignments (40 points each), which include reporting on a VA-based case study of a course topic or creating a map of place-markers related to a course topic.

150 pts, 15%

Quizzes

You will complete 5 quizzes (30 points each), which will be a mixed format including short reply, fill in, multiple choice, and true and false.

305 pts, 30.5%

Research Paper

You will complete 1 formal research paper which will include an introduction, literature review, methods, results, discussion, references.

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

For every 24 hours that something is turned in late, 10% of the overall grade is deducted up to 3 days late. In other words, if you submit an assignment worth 100 points 3 days late, 30 points will be deducted for lateness; additional points may be deducted based on quality and completeness of work as usual. No need to email professor when using late work policy.

Geography of Virginia

GGs 380__DL1

Academic Integrity

George Mason University has an Honor Code 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*. See also [Assignment Procedures](#).

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 #.

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. *If you wish, please share your name and gender pronouns with the professor and how best to address you in class and via email. I use she/her for myself. Please consider updating your profile in PatriotWeb.*

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

Additional Resources

See list and links on BB.

Geography of Virginia

GGG 380__DL1

Course Schedule

| Weeks | Topics/Modules | Due by Thursday 11:59 pm EST | Due by Sunday 11:59 pm EST |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Week 1 8/21-27 | Introduction | Mental Map | Quiz |
| Week 2 8/28-9/3 | Opioids in Southwest Virginia | Social Annotation | |
| Week 3 9/4-9/10 | Opioids in Southwest Virginia | Guided Tour | Quiz |
| Week 4 9/11-9/17 | Rural Changes in the Shenandoah | Social Annotation | |
| Week 5 9/18-9/24 | Rural Changes in the Shenandoah | Guided Tour | Quiz |
| Week 6 9/25-10/1 | Qualitative Methods | | Methods Worksheet |
| Week 7 10/2-10/8 | Research Paper Overview | | Research Paper Proposal |
| Week 8 10/9-10/15 | Virginia Native Landscapes | Social Annotation | Field Note |
| Week 9 10/16-10/22 | Post-Confederate Landscapes | Social Annotation | Field Note |
| Week 10 10/23-10/29 | Qualitative Methods | | Methods Worksheet |
| Week 11 10/30-11/5 | Historical Geography of Virginia | | Quiz |
| Week 12 11/6-11/12 | Voting in Virginia | Field Note | Research Paper Progress Report |
| Week 13 11/13-11/19 | Threats to the Chesapeake | Social Annotation | |
| Week 14 11/20-11/26 | Threats to the Chesapeake | Field Note | Quiz |
| Week 15 11/27-12/3 | Virginia Futures | Mental Map Extra Credit | Research Paper |