

Geography of Virginia

GGG 380__DL1 Fall 2024

Professor

Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Email

crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours

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

Course Delivery

Asynchronous Online via Canvas (canvas.gmu.edu)

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 knowledge of the two dimensions of the course in various exercises.

Required Text

All texts are free and accessible on Canvas

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
- Describe how to use various qualitative methods and practice data collection and analysis
- Complete archival analysis, conduct interviews, and complete observation

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

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Grading/Requirements

Submit on Canvas.

50 pts, 5%

Mental Map

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

120 pts, 12%

Methods Worksheets

You will complete 2 methods worksheets (60 points each), which include conducting or simulating qualitative methods and/or analysis.

100 pts, 10%

Social Annotations

You will complete 4 social annotations (25 points each), which include comments made to assigned readings using the Perusall application available through Canvas.

200 pts, 20%

Guided Tours

You will complete 4 guided tour assignments (50 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.

180 pts, 18%

Quizzes

You will complete 6 quizzes (30 points each), which will be a mixed format including short reply, fill in, multiple choice, and true and false.

300 pts, 30%

Exercises

You will complete 3 qualitative exercises (100 points each): archival research, interview, and observation.

50 pts, 5%

Reflection

You will complete 1 reflection where you assess your knowledge acquisition and experience in the course.

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 day 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.

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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. *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. 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	Topic	Due Thurs 11:59 pm	Due Sun 11:59 pm
Week 1 8/26-9/1	Introduction	Mental Map	
Week 2 9/2-9/8	Opioids in Southwest Virginia	Social Annotation	
Week 3 9/9-9/15	Opioids in Southwest Virginia	Guided Tour	Quiz
Week 4 9/16-9/22	Qualitative Methods 1		<i>Worksheet: Methods 1</i>
Week 5 9/23-9/29	Historical Geography of Virginia		Quiz
Week 6 9/30-10/6	Changes in the Shenandoah	Social Annotation	<u>Exercise: Archival</u>
Week 7 10/7-10/13	Changes in the Shenandoah	Guided Tour	Quiz
Week 8 10/14-10/20	Qualitative Methods 2		<i>Worksheet: Methods 2</i>
Week 9 10/21-10/27	Native Landscapes in Virginia	Quiz	<u>Exercise: Interview</u>
Week 10 10/28-11/3	Threats to the Chesapeake	Social Annotation	
Week 11 11/4-11/10	Elections & Virginia		<u>Exercise: Observation</u>
Week 12 11/11-11/17	Threats to the Chesapeake	Guided Tour	Quiz
Week 13 11/18-11/24	Southside	Social Annotation	
Week 14 11/25-12/1	Southside		Quiz
Week 15 12/2-12/8	Local Issues in NOVA	Guided Tour	Reflection