

GGG 103 – Section A01: Human Geography

Distance Education Course

Professor: Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Contact: crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment via Blackboard Collaborate or WebEx

REQUIRED TEXT

*Link to free textbook to be announced and available on Blackboard**

***This is an Open Educational Resource, meaning it is *FREE* to access**

COURSE DESCRIPTION (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the major branch of geography called human geography. The study of human geography investigates how people and human activities are connected to and interact with place, space, and landscape. Questions asked by human geographers include: How does place influence people? How do people influence place? What are the effects of global processes at the local level, or scale? How is human activity – agricultural practices, internet use, 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 *SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES* REQUIREMENT FOR THE MASON CORE.

MASON CORE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors;
2. Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs;
3. 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.

ADDITIONAL COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

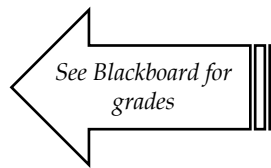
1. Use geographic tools and data sources to interpret the distribution of spatial phenomena, especially the unequal distribution of phenomena
2. Explain how people are influenced by contextual factors and interact with their surrounding physical and socio-cultural environments and landscapes
3. Regarding the relationship between human activity and space, place, and landscape, ask and answer: Why this, here? Why that, there?
4. Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs

EXPECTATIONS OF BEING AN ONLINE STUDENT

- **CHECK AND READ YOUR MASON EMAIL DAILY.** *Not reading email during an online course is equivalent to not showing up for class and missing important announcements. The Announcements tab on Blackboard has a record of all email communication.*
- **REACH OUT IF YOU ARE STUCK.** If you don't let me know you are struggling, I cannot assist. ****If you encounter any accessibility concerns or have accommodations that I need to know about, please get in touch with me promptly****
- **STAY ORGANIZED AND BE METHODICAL.** It is up to you to work through all the information located in each **Weekly Module** on Blackboard.
- **SHOW RESPECT** for your classmates and myself when interacting virtually; I will do the same.

GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

Discussions (3).....150 pts, 15%
 Assignments (3).....350 pts, 40%
 Quizzes (5)..... 500 pts, 50%



GRADE CUTOFFS BY POINTS

| | | | |
|----|----------|----|---------|
| 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 |

Note: no C-

It is your responsibility to check grades as soon as they are posted on Blackboard. If you feel there is an issue with your grade, **you must contact the professor by email within 48 hours of the grade being posted** to discuss.

DISCUSSIONS (150 pts, 15%)

There are 3 discussions that involve student-student interaction; see Blackboard for prompts and rubric. Discussions may occur within discussion groups or as full class discussions. You must make an initial post to the discussion board and respond to the posts of 2 classmates each week.

ASSIGNMENTS (350 pts, 35%)

There are 3 assignments to be completed individually without student-student interaction; see Blackboard for specific directions and rubrics.

Census & Pop. Pyramid Assignment.....100 pts
 Observing Landscape Assignment.....100 pts
 Make a Map Assignment*.....150 pts

**The Make a Map assignment requires you use a Google account; it is your responsibility to notify me As Soon As Possible if you do not have a Google account and/or do not want to create one for this assignment in which case I will happily provide you a generic login to use. A tutorial is provided and one-on-one support is available for all mapping requirements. You do not need ANY prior mapping experience to complete this assignment.*

ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES

All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard. Save assignments as Word documents OR PDFs and upload to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check that the assignment displays properly when uploaded. I grade how it appears on Blackboard, including blank documents.

You are responsible for proper and timely submission. If you have a technical issue and cannot submit via Blackboard, you **MUST** email a copy of the assignment to the professor **BEFORE** it is due so the professor can consider it for credit. Avoid having to do this by submitting early.

For writing-based homework assignments, you will have two submission opportunities so you can submit your work once and view the University's plagiarism checker SafeAssign report, make necessary corrections, and resubmit. The most recent submission is what will be graded. Plagiarism is treated seriously in compliance with university policy (see Academic Integrity).

QUIZZES (500 pts, 50%)

There are 5 quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes are multiple choice and/or True/False and may contain some fill in the blank, one word, or one sentence write-in answers. Unless otherwise stated, you have one attempt to take each quiz. **You may use resources to assist you take the quizzes but you cannot collaborate with anyone to complete the quizzes, as per Mason's Honor Code.** Quiz content is derived from all learning materials pertaining to a week, including readings, videos, links, etc; therefore, you should take the quiz after engaging with **all** of the learning materials.

EXTRA CREDIT

If extra credit opportunities arise throughout the course of the semester, they will appear in the Extra Credit Opportunities folder on Blackboard. See also Late Work Policy.

LATE WORK POLICY

At the start of the semester you have **2 late work tokens**. Late work tokens can be used on the following: quizzes, assignments, and discussion posts and replies (if you submit your initial post on time but fail to complete the required response(s), you can use a late token for the response portion of the discussion).

Using your late tokens enables you to turn in 2 items (see list of approved items above) up to 48 hours past the original due date without penalty. When using a late token, turn in/complete your item on Blackboard as usual and the professor will see it was turned in/completed late and record your use of the late token(s) and grade the item(s) accordingly.

Example:

If a homework assignment is due to Blackboard on Sunday at 11:59 pm and:

- You turn it in on Monday at 12:03 am, this will be considered late and I will mark down that you used a late token
- You turn it in on Tuesday 10:46 am, this will be considered late and I will mark down that you used a late token
- You turn it in on Wednesday 7:13 am, you will not receive any credit for the item since it was turned in past the 48 hour extension that the late token offers

If you need an extension due to extenuating circumstances that are recognized by the university, it is your responsibility to contact the professor by email to inquire about an extension **prior to the original due date; this does not guarantee an extension.**

If you have one late token left at the end of the semester, you will receive 5 points as extra credit; if you have both late tokens left at the end of the semester, you will receive 10 points extra credit (that's one full percentage point).

EMAIL POLICY

In compliance with a University-wide initiative, correspondence between instructors and students must only occur through GMU assigned email accounts. If you email me from a non-GMU email account, I will either not respond or I will respond letting you know to use your GMU email. I reply to all emails within 24 hours. **IT IS ESPECIALLY ESSENTIAL FOR AN ONLINE COURSE THAT YOU CHECK YOUR GMU EMAIL DAILY, PREFERABLY MULTIPLE TIMES A DAY. I PRESUME THAT ALL EMAILS I SEND ARE READ AND COMPREHENDED IN THEIR ENTIRETY.**

Please include these few basic elements in any and all email correspondence so I can quickly address your concern:

Subject Line: Course # **AND** Section # (example: GGS 103 Sec A01)

Quick salutation (example: Hi Dr. Rosenfeld)

Body that clearly explains the question or problem you have

Closing with first **AND** last name

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You need reliable access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. You need speakers or headphones to hear recorded content; transcripts/subtitles are also available. You need a working Blackboard account, GMU email account, and access to Microsoft Word. If you have trouble viewing any content, please try viewing it on an alternative web browser. You may need to install Flash Player, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and Windows Media Player. Consult with IT Services for information about free downloads:

<https://its.gmu.edu/find-a-service/>.

CAMPUS RESOURCES ***Resources are virtual for Summer 2020**

COVID-19 Resources: ww2.gmu.edu/coronavirus

Writing Resources: Tutors at the Writing Center are available to assist you: Robinson B, room 213, 703-993-1200, writingcenter.gmu.edu

Disability Services: If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance, you should: 1) Make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Services-SUB I, suite 2500, 703-993-2474, ds.gmu.edu and 2) Discuss your accommodation needs with the professor.

ITS Support Center: Innovation Hall, Room 226, 703-993-8870

Student Technology Assistance & Resource Center (STAR): Provides all kinds of technology support: JC, room 229, 703-993-8990, bit.ly/2hWjI0y

Counseling Services: Professional counselors provide individual and group sessions for personal development and assistance with a range of emotional and relational issues: SUB I, room 3129, 703-993-2380, caps.gmu.edu

Student Support & Advocacy Center: Assistance regarding healthy lifestyle and educational choices; refer students you may be concerned about: SUB I, suite 3200, 703-993-3686, ssac.gmu.edu

Title IX: diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct, 703-993-8730, 373 Aquia Building

Food Pantry: Access food and household items: SUB I, suite 3011, pantry@gmu.edu

Looking for a different resource? Let me know & I can help you find it!

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



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, 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.

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.

*****FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PROPER [NETIQUETTE](#) IN OUR ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT YOUR GRADE*****

****This syllabus is subject to change but if changes are made, aside from slight weekly content adjustments, they will be clearly communicated via Blackboard****

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Week | Week Opens (EST): | Week Closes (EST): | Topics | Due by week close: |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Monday 6/1 12:01 am | Sunday 6/7 11:59 pm | Thinking Geographically Place, Power, & Politics | Quiz 1 Discussion: Border Conflicts |
| 2 | Monday 6/8 12:01 am | Sunday 6/14 11:59 pm | Development & Economy Population/Migration | Quiz 2 Assignment: Census & Pop. Pyramids |
| 3 | Monday 6/15 12:01 am | Sunday 6/21 11:59 pm | Culture, Landscape, & Nature | Quiz 3 Discussion: Fracking Town Hall Assignment: Observing Landscape |
| 4 | Monday 6/22 12:01 am | Sunday 6/28 11:59 pm | Urban & Rural Spaces | Quiz 4 Assignment: Make a Map |
| 5 | Monday 6/29 12:01 am | WEDNESDAY 7/1 11:59 pm | Language & Religion | Quiz 5 Discussion: Language Loss |

*****All items for each week are due by the week close date and time, Eastern Standard Time; Quizzes are available from Friday 12:01 am to Sunday 11:59 pm*****