GGS 103 - Section DL1: Human Geography
Distance Education Course – Spring 2020
Professor: Sarah Jones
Email: sjones63@gmu.edu

1. General Information

- **Where:** online via Blackboard; this class is 100% online
- **When:** a learning module will be released each week on <u>Monday</u> and should be completed by the following <u>Sunday</u> (11:59pm Eastern time). Due dates of other course activities will also be due on the Sunday the modules should be completed, unless otherwise noted (see schedule).
- **Instructor's Office Hours:**
  - <u>Online:</u> Tuesdays 1:30 – 2:30pm via Blackboard Collaborate
  - Or by appointment via a Private Collaborate Ultra session, if needed
- **Contact Method:** preferred method of contact is over email (see Section 6)
- **Required Text:**
  Rubenstein, J.M. (2016). *Contemporary Human Geography* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Pearson.
  OR
  Rubenstein, J.M. (2018). *Contemporary Human Geography* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Pearson.
  **Both texts are available hard copy and e-text at campus bookstore and other retailers. <u>YOU ONLY NEED ONE OF THE TEXTS LISTED.</u>

2. 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, Twitter 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.

3. 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 influences 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

4. 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 and to make sure everything is submitted on time.
- **SHOW RESPECT** for your classmates and myself when interacting virtually; I will do the same. *Keep in mind that we are all communicating virtually and without visual cues, like what would be seen in face-to-face interactions, it is very easy to misinterpret how something is being 'typed' when that never is the case.*

5. Office Hours/Blackboard Collaborative Ultra

Blackboard Collaborative Ultra will be used weekly for my online office hours that are listed in Section 1. I, every week will create a new session that will act as my office hours. Students can feel free to ask questions or do anything that one would normally do during face-to-face office hours. *If you feel more comfortable with it being private, just let me know and we can schedule a separate time.* These one hour sessions will **NOT** be lectures, so there is no need to join the session if you don't need too. In fact, I reply to emails so quickly, I've yet to have anyone utilize my virtual office hours in any other of my courses.

To access, go to the course in Blackboard, Select Tools from the Blackboard Course Menu, then select "Blackboard Collaborate Ultra".

There is an option to use Audio, Camera, and/or type (like a chat). You do not need to set up your camera unless you want too (mine won't be). Most sessions should take place using the chat but sometimes it may be easier for me to explain something using my microphone or sharing my computer screen. If there are any questions about this refer to the Course Resources section.

I HIGHLY recommend you watch the video tour for how to use Blackboard Collaborate Ultra in module 1.

6. Grading & Requirements   Grade Cutoffs by Points

Orientation quiz & post….50 pts	A+	980-1000	B-	800-829
Discussions……………. 150 pts	A	930-979	C+	780-799
HW Assignments……… 240 pts	A-	900-929	C	700-779
Exams……..………... 300 pts	B+	880-899	D	600-699
Final Project………...… 260 pts	B	830-879	F	0-599

Note: no C-

In order to be fair to all students, the grade cutoffs above, will be FULLY respected.

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.

ORIENTATION QUIZ & POST (50 pts)

Orientation quiz (worth 25 points) is multiple choice and/or True/False. Orientation discussion post (worth 25 points) has a description on Blackboard.

DISCUSSIONS (150 pts)

There are 5 discussions aside from the Orientation discussion. See Blackboard for prompts. You MUST make an initial post to the discussion board (you will not be able to see others' posts until you post) and respond to the posts of **two (2) classmates** each week. Graded on a rubric.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (240 pts)

There are 4 homework assignments. See Blackboard for specific directions and rubrics. All homework's are required and are to be completed individually.

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 following the directions and making proper and timely submissions. 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).

FINAL PROJECT (260 pts)

The final project has two parts: a paper and a Google Map with place markers. See Blackboard for specific directions, tutorial, and rubric. If you do not have a google account and do not want to sign up for a free account to use for this project, it is your responsibility to notify me *As Soon As Possible* so I can provide you with an alternative. This will act as the final exam.

EXAMS (300 pts)

There are 3 exams throughout the semester. They will contain multiple choice and/or True/False questions. Unless otherwise stated, you have one attempt to take each exam. You may use resources to assist you to take the exams. Exam content is derived from all the learning materials pertaining to given modules, including readings, videos, links, etc. They will be given the following week after the last module's content being covered on the exam, in order to allow proper review and study time.

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.

Do not send an email requesting any type of extra credit in order to increase a grade, it will be denied.

LATE WORK POLICY

At the start of the semester you <u>have 2 late work tokens</u>. Late work tokens can be used on the following: homework 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).

> ***You may NOT use a late token for any orientation quiz or orientation discussion, exams, or final project.***

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. If something is submitted past the 48 hour extension or you run out of late tokens, 10% will be deducted for each day it is late. Nothing will be accepted if it is submitted more than a week late from the original due date.

> ***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 and you have a late token, a late token will be used along with a 10% deduction
> - You turn it in on Wednesday 7:13am with no late tokens left, 10% deduction will happen for EACH day it's late.

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 a couple extra points as extra credit; if you have both late tokens left at the end of the semester, you will receive a few more extra points as extra credit.

7. 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 24-36 hours, but often much sooner. I am available by email <u>Monday – Friday until 6pm each day</u>. Communication during the weekend or on University holidays is left up to the discretion of the instructor. I will try my best to read my emails at least once during the weekend, if possible. **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.**

You MUST 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 DL1)
> Quick salutation (example: Hi Sarah)

Body that clearly explains the question or problem you have
Closing with first AND last name

8. 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/.

9. Campus Resources

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

Writing Resources: Tutors at the Writing Center are available to assist you: Robinson B, room 213, 703-993-1200, writingcenter.gmu.edu
Tutoring: See Blackboard for list of university tutoring services
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.
Library Study Rooms: library.gmu.edu/use/study-rooms
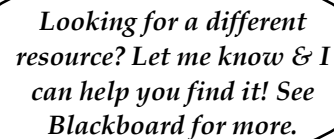**ITS Support Center:** Innovation Hall, Room 226, 703-993-8870
Student Technology Assistance & Resource Center (STAR): Provides all kinds of technology support: JC, room 229, 703-993-8990, bit.ly/2hWjI0y
Counseling Services: Professional counselors provide individual and group sessions for personal 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

10. Departmental & Course Resources

GGS Student Computer Lab: Exploratory Hall Room 2102. You will receive automatic "swipe" access using your Student ID while enrolled in this class. If you are having problems with door access, please email Sam Cooke (scooke4@gmu.edu). Email College of Science IT (cosit@gmu.edu) for technical assistance.

Blackboard Collaborate Ultra Resources: If help is needed, use this webpage: https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Participant, and if that doesn't help, shoot me an email. Good pages to look at using the link above are the 'Start here with the basics!' and 'How do I join a session?'

11. University Policies

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	Discussions	Assignments/Exam
1	Monday 1/20 12:01 am	Sunday 1/26 11:59 pm	Orientation		Orientation Quiz
2	Monday 1/27 12:01 am	Sunday 2/2 11:59 pm	What is Geography?	Orientation Discussion	
3	Monday 2/3 12:01 am	Sunday 2/9 11:59 pm	Population	Discussion 1	
4	Monday 2/10 12:01 am	Sunday 2/16 11:59 pm	Migration		HW1

5	Monday 2/17 12:01 am	Sunday 2/23 11:59 pm	Development & Economy	**Exam 1 (Modules 1-4)**	
6	Monday 2/24 12:01 am	Sunday 3/1 11:59 pm	Political Geography		HW2
7	Monday 3/2 12:01 am	Sunday 3/8 11:59 pm	Culture & Landscape	Discussion 2	
8	Monday 3/9 12:01 am	Sunday 3/15 11:59pm	**SPRING BREAK - ENJOY!**		
9	Monday 3/16 12:01am	Sunday 3/22 11:59pm	People & Nature		HW3
10	Monday 3/23 12:01am	Sunday 3/29 11:59pm	Language	**Exam 2 (Modules 5-9)**	
11	Monday 3/30 12:01am	Sunday 4/5 11:59pm	Relgion	Discussion 3	HW4
12	Monday 4/6 12:01am	Sunday 4/12 11:59pm	Urban Spaces	Discussion 4	
13	Monday 4/13 12:01am	Sunday 4/19 11:59pm	Agriculture	Discussion 5	
14	Monday 4/20 12:01am	Sunday 4/26 11:59pm	None	**Exam 3 (Modules 10-13)**	
15	Monday 4/27 12:01am	_WEDNES-DAY_ 5/6 11:59pm	None		**Final Project Due: 5/6 11:59pm**

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