

GGS 101-MAJOR WORLD REGIONS SYLLABUS

Course Information

Course number: GGS 101
Course title: Major World Regions
Term: Fall 2019
Class Meetings: Mondays & Wednesdays 12:00pm -1:15pm
Location: Lecture Hall 3
Class Webpage: Blackboard

Professor Contact Information

Professor: Piash Debnath, M.S.
Email: pdebnat2@gmu.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of the spatial aspects of human regional behavior and how it affects topics such as population, economies, conflict, and an overall human experience of the globe. The course will examine different regions of the world and figure out how they are interconnected.

Course Prerequisites: None

Required Textbooks (Available Free Online)

Title: World Regional Geography

Author: Caitlin Finlayson

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/world-regional-geography>

Grading Policy:

HW Exercises (3)	4 points each	12%
Mid-Term Exam (1)	20 points	20%
Discussion Board (3)	5 points each	15%
Final Project (1)	25 points	25%
Final Exam (1)	20 points	20%
Participation (1)	8 points	8%
Total Possible Points:	100	100%

Grading Scale:

A- 90 – 100%
B- 80 – 89%
C- 70 – 79%
D- 60 – 69%
F- 59 – 0%

Course & Instructor Policies

Exams: There are 2 exams. There will be an in-class Midterm and Final exam consisting of multiple choice and short answers. Both are worth 20% of the total grade. Please bring a **green scantron**.

HW Assignments: There will be 3 HW assignments worth 4 points each. They will be due by 11:59am prior to the beginning of class. Submit via Blackboard. No hard copies required unless specified.

Late Assignments: Late Assignments are not accepted unless there is prior approval before the due date.

Discussion Board: The Discussion Board will take place on Blackboard and will be followed up in class. Each Discussion will be worth 5 points with a total of 3 discussions for the semester, due on Blackboard by 11:59am prior to the beginning of class. 2 of the points will be dedicated for in class attendance/participation.

Final Project: The Final Project will be worth 25 points and will consist of a group presentation. The group powerpoint presentation will be presented the last week of class. 5 points will be dedicated towards Final Project Steps 1-3.

Participation:

Of the 8% participation grade, 2% will be earned for attending and participating in your peer's final presentations. 1% will be the Orientation quiz and the rest class attendance and class participation.

Classroom Etiquette:

Please silence all electronics. Laptops are permitted for notetaking. If you need to take a call, please step outside.

Class Cancellations:

GMU will notify of campus closures and will be followed accordingly. Furthermore, if there is an emergency on my end, please always check **Blackboard**/your emails.

Important Dates:

Last day to drop with a tuition refund	Sept 9th
Last day to withdraw without grade penalty	Oct 29th
End of Exam period	Dec 18th

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Make sure to complete your own work. When doing citations please use APA. Please refer to the school's plagiarism codes.

Honor Code: "Students members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work."

I in this course, you are not to:

- Access sources/information during an exam/quiz
- Give help or information/work to a friend/classmate

[Read the Honor Code for a list of definitions and examples](#)

Netiquette

In our online learning community, we must be respectful of one another. Please be aware that innocent remarks can be easily misconstrued. Sarcasm and humor can be easily taken out of context. When communicating, please be positive and diplomatic. I encourage you to learn more about [Netiquette](#).

Student Services

University Libraries

University Libraries provides resources for distance students. [See <http://library.gmu.edu/distance>].

Writing Center

The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, and handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>]. You can now sign up for an Online Writing Lab (OWL) session just like you sign up for a face-to-face session in the Writing Center, which means YOU set the date and time of the appointment! Learn more about the [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) (found under Online Tutoring).

Counseling and Psychological Services

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu>].

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the "Buckley Amendment," is a federal law that gives protection to student educational records and provides students with certain rights. [See <http://registrar.gmu.edu/privacy>]

Date	Topics	Readings (before class)	Assignments Due
Week 0 08/19-08/25	None	None	Get Familiar with Blackboard/Orientation Quiz
Week 1 08/26-09/01	Syllabus Geography Intro	08/26- Syllabus 08/28- Chapter 1.1-1.4	08/26-None 08/28-Orientation Quiz
Week 2 09/02-09/08	LABOR DAY NO CLASS Intro (con't)	08/27-None 08/29- Chapter 1.4-1.8	08/27-None 08/29-None
Week 3 09/09-09/15	Europe	09/09- Chapter 2.1-2.3 09/11- Chapter 2.4-2.6	09/09- Exercise 1 09/11-None
Week 4 09/16-09/22	Russia	09/16-Chapter 3.1-3.3 09/18-Chapter 3.4-3.6	09/16-None 09/18-Final Project Step 1
Week 5 09/23-09/29	North America Discussion 1	09/23-Chapter 4.1-4.3 09/25-Chapter 4.4-4.6	09/23- None 09/25- Discussion 1
Week 6 09/30-10/06	Middle and South America	09/30-Chapter 5.1-5.2 10/02-Chapter 5.3-5.6	09/30- None 10/02-Exercise 2
Week 7 10/07-10/13	Midterm	10/07-None 10/09-None	10/07-None 10/09-None
Week 8 10/14-10/20	Library session/ FALL BREAK NO CLASS 10/14	10/14-Group project readings/research 10/16-None	10/14-Final Project Step 2 10/16-None
Week 9 10/21-10/27	Sub-Saharan Africa	10/21- Chapter 6.1-6.3 10/23- Chapter 6.4-6.5	10/21-None 10/23-Exercise 3
Week 10 10/28-11/03	North Africa and Southwest Asia Discussion 2	10/28-Chapter 7.1-7.3 10/30- Chapter 7.4-7.6	10/28-None 10/30-Discussion 2
Week 11 11/04-11/10	South Asia	11/04-Chapter 8.1-8.3 11/06- Chapter 8.4-8.5	11/04-None 11/06-None
Week 12 11/11-11/17	East and Southeast Asia	11/11-Chapter 9.1-9.3 11/13-Chapter 9.4-9.5	11/11-None 11/13-Final Project Step 3
Week 13 11/18-11/24	Oceania Discussion 3	11/18-Chapter 10.1-10.3 11/20-Chapter 10.4-10.5	11/18-None 11/20-Discussion 3
Week 14 11/25-/12/01	Final Presentations	11/25-None 11/27-None	11/25-FINAL PROJECTS 11/27-None
Week 15 12/02-12/08	THANKSGIVING BREAK	12/02-None 12/04-None	11/26-None 11/28-None
Week 16 12/09-12/16	Final Exam	12/09-None 12/11-None	12/03-None 12/05None

*Dates and assignments are subject to change. Please check BB for up to date readings and assignments