

GGG 101- Section DL1: Major World Regions

Distance Education Course

Fall 2019

1. General Information

- **Instructor:** Sarah Jones
- **Email:** sjones63@gmu.edu
- **Where:** online via Blackboard
- **When:** a learning module will be released each week on Monday and should be completed by the following Sunday (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:**
 - Online: Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:00pm via Blackboard Collaborate
 - Or by appointment via Skype or Private Collaborate Ultra session, if needed
- **Contact Method:** preferred method of contact is over email (see Section 7)
- **Required Text:** H.J. De Blij, P. O. Muller, & J. Nijman. (2013). *Geography: Realms, regions and concepts* (16th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

2. Course Description (3 credits)

This course provides a survey of cultural, physical, and societal aspects of major world regions. We will examine how forces across various scales, from local to global, shape the character of place and shape. Furthermore, we will explore how regions differ from one another, are similar to one another, and interact with/interrelate to one another in today's globalizing world. Acquiring a familiarity with and a foundation in the geography of the major world regions allows us to ask more critical questions about the unevenness of various geographical processes and patterns on the landscape in addition to reflecting on our own role in the larger world.

THIS COUSE SATISFIES THE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING REQUIREMENT FOR THE MASON CORE.

3. Learning Outcomes

- Use geographic tools and data sources to profile place and read and interpret information on maps, charts, and photos
- Identify and describe how humans interact with and adapt to their environment
- Describe world regions based on physical, cultural, and economic traits
- Explain similarities, differences, and interdependencies among world regions across multiple scales
- Identify the distribution of patterns of human and physical geographical features across the globe and describe the geographical processes that explain said patterns

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.
- **SHOW RESPECT** for your classmates and myself when interacting virtually; I will do the same.

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 to.

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

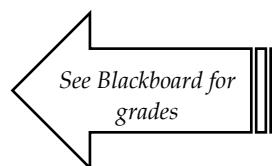
There is an option to use Audio, Camera, and/or type (like a chat). There is no need to set up your camera unless you want too. Most sessions should take place using the chat but sometimes it may be easier for me to explain something using my microphone or sharing my computer screen. If there are any 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

GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

Orientation quiz & post....	50 pts, 5%
Discussions.....	100 pts, 10%
HW Assignments.....	200 pts, 20%
Final Project	250 pts, 25%
Exams.....	300 pts, 30%
Final Exam.....	100 pts, 10%



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.

No assignment grades will be posted until ALL are graded, in which they will all be released at the same time. All assignments will be graded within a week of the due date, unless otherwise noted due to extenuating circumstances on my end.

ORIENTATION QUIZ & POST (50 pts, 5%)

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

DISCUSSIONS (100 pts, 10%)

There are 3 discussions aside from the Orientation discussion. See Blackboard for prompts. You must make an initial post to the discussion board and respond to the posts of two (2) classmates each week. Graded on a rubric.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (200 pts, 20%)

There are 3 homework assignments. See Blackboard for specific directions and rubrics. All homework is 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 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 Section 11).

FINAL PROJECT (250 pts, 25%)

The final project has two parts: a paper and a Google Map. 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.

EXAMS (300 pts, 30%)

There are 3 exams and they are multiple choice and/or True/False. Unless otherwise stated, you have one attempt to take each exam. You may use resources to assist you take the exams. Exam content is derived from all learning materials pertaining to given modules, including readings, videos, links, etc; therefore, you should take the exam after engaging with *all* of the learning materials. Exams are not cumulative but the final exam is partially cumulative.

FINAL EXAM (100 pts, 10%)

Half of the final exam questions are cumulative and half of the questions pertain to Russia and Oceania. It occurs online during the final exam time scheduled by the University for this Course. It is made up of multiple choice and/or True/False questions.

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: 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 exams, including the final exam 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.

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 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 Monday – Friday until 7pm each day. Communication during the weekend or on University holidays is left up to the discretion of the instructor. **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 101 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

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

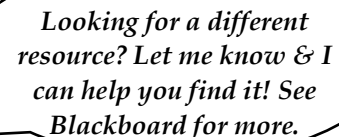
Student Technology Assistance & Resource Center (STAR): Provides all kinds of technology support: JC, room 229, 703-993-8990, bit.ly/2hWjI0y

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



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

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!’, ‘How do I join a session?’, and ‘How do I set up my camera and microphone?’

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/ Module	Week Opens (EST):	Week Closes (EST):	Topics	Assessments	Discussions	Assignments
1	Monday 8/26 12:01 am	Sunday 9/1 11:59 pm	Orientation	Orientation Quiz		
2	Monday 9/2 12:01 am	Sunday 9/8 11:59 pm	Geography & Geographic Skills 1		Orientation Discussion	
3	Monday 9/9 12:01 am	Sunday 9/15 11:59 pm	Geography & Geographic Skills 2			Homework Assignment 1
4	Monday 9/16 12:01 am	Sunday 9/22 11:59 pm	North America	Exam 1 (Modules 1-4)		
5	Monday 9/23 12:01 am	Sunday 9/29 11:59 pm	Middle America		Discussion 1	
6	Monday 9/30 12:01 am	Sunday 10/6 11:59 pm	South America			Homework Assignment 2
7	Monday 10/7 12:01 am	Sunday 10/13 11:59 pm	Sub-Saharan Africa		Discussion 2	
8	Monday 10/14 12:01 am	Sunday 10/20 11:59 pm	Middle East & North Africa	Exam 2 (Modules 5-8)		
9	Monday 10/21 12:01 am	Sunday 10/27 11:59 pm	East Asia			
10	Monday 10/28 12:01 am	Sunday 11/3 11:59 pm	South Asia			Homework Assignment 3
11	Monday 11/4 12:01 am	Sunday 11/10 11:59 pm	Southeast Asia		Discussion 3	
12	Monday 11/11 12:01 am	Sunday 11/17 11:59 pm	Europe	Exam 3 (Modules 9-12)		
13	Monday 11/18 12:01 am	Sunday 11/24 11:59 pm	Russia			Final Project
14	Monday 11/25 12:01 am	Sunday 12/1 11:59 pm	No New Topics-- Review Week			
15	Monday 12/2 12:01 am	Sunday 12/8 11:59 pm	Oceania			
	Final exam day and time		Final Exam (Half: Modules 13, 14; Half: cumulative)			

*****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*****