



Human Geography – GGS 103-SEC 001
George Mason University
Fall 2019
August 26th – December 18th
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 pm-01:15 pm
EXPL 2103

Instructor: Sherry Young
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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Course Overview:

Course provides an overview of the subdivision of geography called human geography. Human geography investigates how humans and human activities and cultures are connected to and interact with place, space, and the 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 distributed spatially? Why do certain patterns of human activity exist on the landscape in the way that they do?

Prerequisites:

No prior coursework is required, but basic computer skills are a must.

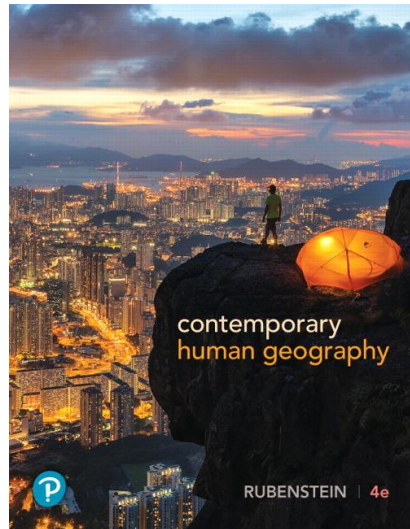
Enrollment and repeat policy:

This course adheres to George Mason's official policy that an undergraduate course may be repeated for grade up to three times; however, some majors may have more restrictive limits on specific courses, for more information please check with your advisor. Dropping or withdrawing (W grade) from a course is not counted as a repeat in this policy.



Required Textbook:

Contemporary Human Geography (4th Edition) by James M. Rubenstein ISBN-13: 978-0134746227 can be purchased at the bookstore or from other sources, you need to have the correct edition ready for the first week. The online Mastering Geography code is **not required**, but you may use it if you would like to. Pearson offers many different packages of this book online and offers an e Text version for a lower price. The e Text also comes free with the mastering geography code if you decide to purchase the code. The link for the e Text and an

image of the book is below. <http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/contemporary-human-geography-subscription-9780134791807?xid=PSED> The book is also available to rent from Amazon.



Important Dates:

First day of class	08/27
 Labor Day no classes	09/02
Last day to drop – full refund	09/09
Final drop deadline with 50% refund	09/17
Student self-withdrawal	09/18-09/30
Fall Break (Monday classes meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)	10/14-10/15
Exam 1	9/19
Exam 2	10/22
 Thanksgiving Break	11/27 – 12/1
Exam 3	12/12
Last day of class (except exam)	12/5

Mason Core: Social and Behavioral Sciences

GGs 103 Human geography meets the mason core requirements for social and behavioral sciences. The following learning outcomes will be met in this class:

1. Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs;
2. 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.
3. Use geographic tools and data sources to interpret the distribution of spatial phenomena, especially the unequal distribution of phenomena. Ask and answer: Why this, here? Why that, there?

4. Explain how people are influenced by contextual factors and interact with their surrounding physical and socio-cultural environments and landscapes.

General information and Policies:

1. Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important university information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.
2. I will return emails as quickly as possible Monday through Friday. If you send an email on Saturday or Sunday it could be a full 24 hours before I respond.
3. Students of this course must be familiar with the GMU honor code <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/9798/honorcod.html#code>. Violations of the honor code will be reported.
4. Please be kind and respectful to fellow students, use proper academic/business etiquette and language. Review the George Mason Diversity Statement below.
5. Failing to attend class, complete work, or interact with the professor **will not** result in automatically being dropped or withdrawn from the class. Student are solely responsible for any changes in enrollment. The grade earned will be reported at the end of the semester for all students enrolled at that time. See attendance and make up policy below.
6. Bring laptop to class for assignments in Google Earth and quizzes and exams which will be on Blackboard.

Assignments and Grading:

The course will consist of assigned weekly textbook readings, occasional in class assignments or homework, quizzes, group project and paper, and 3 exams. Grading will be calculated as follows:

Assignment	Quantity or Dates	Points	Percent of Total
Homework/Assignments	4 Assignments	100	10%
Group Project	Due December 5 th	200	20%
Quizzes	5 Quizzes	100	10%
Exam 1	September 19 th	200	20%
Exam 2	October 22 nd	200	20%
Exam 3	December 12 th	200	20%

Grading Scale:

Grade	Points	Percent Range	Grade	Points	Percent Range
A ⁺	960-1000	96% - 100%	C ⁺	760-799	76% - 79.9%
A	930-959	93% - 95.9%	C	730-759	73% - 75.9%
A ⁻	900-929	90% - 92.9%	C ⁻	700-729	70% - 72.9%
B ⁺	860-899	86% - 89.9%	D	600-699	60% - 69.9%
B	830-859	83% - 85.9%	F	<600	<60%
B ⁻	800-829	80% - 82.9%			

GGG 102 Calendar – Fall 19

Week	Dates	Chapters	Assignments
1	8/27	Intro & Chapter 1 This is Geography pages: 4-30	
	8/29	Chapter 1	
2	9/3	Chapter 2 Population & Health pages: 36-60	Sign up for groups and country, select captain
	9/5	Chapter 2	Quiz Chapters 1-2
3	9/10	Chapter 3 Migration pages: 64-84	Turn in group project sheet
	9/12	Chapter 3	Google Earth Intro assignment
4	9/17	Chapter 4 Folk & Popular Culture pages: 88-110	Quiz Chapter 3-4
	9/19	Exam 1 on Chapters 1-4	
5	9/24	Chapter 5 Languages pages: 114-134	
	9/26	Chapter 5	Köppen climate classification assignment use your country
6	10/1	Chapter 6 Religion pages:138-164	
	10/3	Chapter 6	Group captains turn in status update
7	10/8	Chapter 7 Ethnicities pages:168-188	
	10/10	Chapter 7	Quiz Chapters 5-7
8	10/15	No class Tuesday	
	10/17	Chapter 8 Political Geography pages: 192-214	
9	10/22	Exam 2 on Chapters 5-8	
	10/24	Chapter 9 Food & Agriculture pages: 218-240	
10	10/29	Chapter 10 Development pages: 244-266	Read article about deforestation in Brazil & write paragraphs
	10/31	Chapter 10	
11	11/5	Chapter 11 Industry pages: 270-288	Group captains turn in status update
	11/7	Chapter 12 Services pages: 292-314	Quiz Chapters 9-11
12	11/12	Chapter 12	
	11/14	Chapter 13 Urban Patterns pages: 318- 338	Read article about New Orleans & write paragraphs
13	11/19	Chapter 13	
	11/21	Chapter 14 Resource Issues pages: 342- 362	
14	11/26	Chapter 14	Quiz Chapter 12-14
	11/28	Thanksgiving Break no class Thursday	None, enjoy!
15	12/3	Group Presentations	
	12/5	Group Presentations	All Group Papers Due
16	12/12	Exam 3 Chapters 9-14, 10:30 am – 1:15 pm	Online

** Schedule may change if necessary.

*** Exam 1 covers chapters 1-4, exam 2: chapters 5-8, exam 3: chapters 9-14.
Exams may include questions pertaining to assignments

Semester Group Project:

The semester project will consist of a short 5-10-page paper and a 10-15-minute PowerPoint presentation. You will be placed into a group of 4 students; your group will need to select a captain. As a group you will select from one of the counties/territories offered below and complete a cultural geographic report of the country/territory. In this report you will include a little about each of the following:

- ❖ Map(s) of the country
- ❖ An image of the flag of your country
- ❖ Climate of your country use the Köppen climate classification
- ❖ Population data: total population, TFR, migration rates, life expectancy, infant mortality rate, population density
- ❖ Major ethnicities of the population and their %
- ❖ Major religions and their %
- ❖ Languages spoken (major), any dominant dialects?
- ❖ Agricultural data what is their staple crops
- ❖ GDP GNI from what? Industry? Mining? Agricultural? Tourism?
- ❖ Developed or developing?
- ❖ Major cities and urban areas (locate them on a map) what is the capital?
- ❖ Cultural practices, any major festivals, holidays
- ❖ Environmental challenges they may be facing today and in the future (ex. sea level rise?, flooding, droughts, over population, food insecurity, desertification, deforestation, forced migration, heat waves, major hazards?) **P.S.** all of these countries have current articles available about the effects of climate change on the population in these countries and/or recent hazards. Will their population growth, economic status, or other factors contribute to these challenges? I want at least 1-2 full pages on this.
- ❖ Images of your country and its people and culture.

Your finished product should be an overview of your country and its people and their culture and any challenges they face. You must use MLA format and properly cite all sources. I expect at least 4 primary sources, you will probably also need to use secondary sources as well. Please see me if you need specifics on reliable sources. More information will be given about this project in the following weeks. Use of **The Writing Center** and library is recommended.

List of Countries (only one group per country, sign up list on 9/3, first group to sign up gets the country, I would check out available data for the country before signing up for it)

- ❖ Afghanistan
- ❖ Australia
- ❖ Bangladesh
- ❖ Brazil
- ❖ Canada
- ❖ Chile
- ❖ China
- ❖ Colombia
- ❖ Cuba
- ❖ Ecuador
- ❖ Egypt
- ❖ Ethiopia
- ❖ Germany
- ❖ Greenland
- ❖ Guatemala
- ❖ Guyana

- ❖ Haiti
- ❖ India
- ❖ Indonesia
- ❖ Independent State of Papua New Guinea
- ❖ Ireland
- ❖ Italy
- ❖ Jamaica
- ❖ Japan
- ❖ Kiribati
- ❖ Maldives
- ❖ Mali
- ❖ Mexico
- ❖ Mozambique
- ❖ Nepal
- ❖ New Zealand
- ❖ Pakistan
- ❖ Philippines
- ❖ Portugal
- ❖ Republic of Fiji
- ❖ Republic of the Marshall Islands
- ❖ Russia
- ❖ Senegal
- ❖ South Africa
- ❖ Spain
- ❖ Sudan
- ❖ Tanzania
- ❖ Thailand
- ❖ Tibet
- ❖ Tonga
- ❖ Uganda
- ❖ United Kingdom
- ❖ Venezuela
- ❖ Vietnam
- ❖ Yemen
- ❖ Zimbabwe

Attendance Policy:

Regular class attendance is expected, in general missing lectures affect exam grades and overall class grades. If a medical condition arises that could affect attendance over an extended period discuss available options with me at your earliest opportunity.

Late Assignments & Make-up Policy:

I expect that students will make every effort to take an exam when scheduled. Nevertheless, sometimes emergencies do arise; I am willing to consider an extension for a make-up exam in certain extreme emergency situations (medical issues, car accidents, etc.). Keep in mind that emergencies are determined by school policy and in consideration of my informed viewpoint. Students interested in an exam extension must contact me before or during the exam by email informing me of your situation. Make-up exams and quizzes will be

comparable to the exam given during the class period, but not exactly the same. Late assignments will have a 20% penalty deducted from the grade earned for each day past the due date. Group project will be graded as a group and based on individual components. If a team member fails to complete their part, the captain will turn in what is completed and advise on who did not complete their portion; under no circumstance should another student complete the work that was assigned to a different student. I will then consult with that student individually.

Disability Accommodations:

If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; <http://ods.gmu.edu>) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs as early in the semester as possible.

Academic integrity:

The George Mason honor code is available to read at the Office for Academic Integrity (<https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>). The Honor Code Pledge reads as follows:

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University Community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set for this Honor Code: Student Members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

Violations of the honor code will be penalized with failure of the assignment and possibly the entire course upon discretion of the instructor. While collaboration and group learning is encouraged, each student must turn in their own work. All sources of information used within your work must be properly cited.

George Mason Diversity Statement:

“George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, 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 is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but 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.” To read more please visit <http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/>.