

GGS 103-001
Human Geography
Fall 2015 – TR – 1:30-2:45 Music/Theater Building 1005

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Kozar

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Phone: 703-993-2309

Office Hours: If my door is open, come on in, but if you insist: MW 1:30-3, or by appointment.

Course Materials:

- The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, 11th Edition, Rubenstein, J.
- Additional readings to be supplied when appropriate.

Course Description: GGS 103 is an introductory course in human geography. As an introductory course it will cover a broad array of topics in human geography and geography in general. You will learn a basic understanding of geographic thought and concepts and the application of those concepts. Although many patterns of human activity may seem random, they are influenced by identifiable geographic causes and effects. You will learn the tools and techniques used to explain these geographic patterns and interactions and the ability to apply these techniques.

Mason Core: GGS 103 meets the **Social and Behavioral Science** requirement of the Mason Core: Core Requirements. The goals of Social and Behavioral Science are accomplished through three 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.

Grading: There will be three (3) exams in this course. Each exam will be a combination of multiple choice, key term identification, and short answer questions. The final exam is not cumulative, but will be given during the final exam period. The material for the exams will come from class lectures and discussions, book chapters, and additional readings. Three (3) key terms worksheets will introduce you to relevant and important topics in human geography. Finally, a course project consisting of a short written research report will describe and examine a major topic in human geography (details to be provided later).

3 Exams @ 25% = 75%

3 Key Terms Worksheets @ 5% = 15%

Research Paper = 10%

Total = 100%

Final Grading Scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (Below 60).

Policies/Student Conduct: Attendance in this course is expected. I cannot provide a full set of notes if you are absent from class, but I am available to answer any questions or clarify information presented in class. If you are absent from a class, please obtain notes from a fellow student. Exam material will come from lectures and book chapters, one cannot substitute the other, class attendance and completing course readings are essential for a satisfactory grade. Late assignments will not be accepted. Make-up exams are not given except under unusual and verifiable circumstances and with few exceptions, prior approval. Any make-up exams will be given at a mutually agreed on time during the final exam period and in essay format. I will not distribute grades through email, if you have a question about your grade see me after class or during office hours. **No phones or other electronic devices. Do not take pictures of lecture**

slides. You must use your MasonLive email account for all course communications. All academic accommodations for documented disabilities must be arranged through the Office of Disability Services (<http://ods.gmu.edu/>).

All students are required to be familiar with and adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code and the Mason Values of Academic Integrity which can be found in the Office of Academic Integrity or online at (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>). Failure to abide by the code could result in failure of this course and dismissal from the University.

Course Outline and Readings (Subject to change):

First Exam – Thursday October 1

1. Introduction to Human Geography
2. Basic Concepts: Chapter 1
3. Population and Health: Chapter 2
4. Migration: Chapter 3

Second Exam – Thursday November 5

1. Development: Chapter 9
2. Food and Agriculture: Chapter 10
3. Industry and Manufacturing: Chapter 11
4. Services and Settlements: Chapter 12

Final Exam – Tuesday December 15 – (1:30 - 4:15 p.m.)

1. Urban Patterns: Chapter 13
2. Selected Topics (Readings to be announced)
 - a. Folk and Popular Culture: Chapter 4
 - b. Languages: Chapter 5
 - c. Religions: Chapter 6
 - d. Ethnicities: Chapter 7
 - e. Political Geography: Chapter 8

Key Terms Worksheets Due

- Key Terms 1: Tuesday September 29
- Key Terms 2: Tuesday November 3
- Key Terms 3: Thursday December 10