

GGGS 101 : WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Fall Semester 2015

7:20 pm – 10 pm

GGGS 101 fulfills Mason Core requirement in Global Understanding

FACULTY: Patricia Boudinot

OFFICE: Exploratory Hall, Room 2201

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 2 pm – 4 pm and/or by appointment before class

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LEARNING ASSISTANT: Piash Debnath, pdebant2@masonlive.gmu.edu

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 on-line exam/quiz
- Give help or information/work to a friend/classmate

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

TEXTBOOK: The textbook is recommended.

Major World Regions by H.J. De Blij, Peter O. Muller and Jan Nijman, Wiley Edition
Please note that this textbook can only be found at the GMU bookstore as it is a custom textbook.

The information in this custom textbook is originally from *Geography; realms, Regions and Concepts, 16th edition* by H.J. De Blij, Peter O. Muller and Jan Nijman, Wiley Edition

CONTENT: “Patterns, problems and prospects of the world’s principal human-geographic regions. Emphasis will be made on a real differentiation and the role geographic differences play in the interpretation of the current worldscene.”
In the changing World , this course will encourage students to make important connections across boundaries.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, every student will be able to :

1. master spatial awareness by using geographical tools
2. describe and then explain a geographic document such as map/photograph/chart
3. identify, evaluate and properly cite resources appropriate to the field, such as audio/visual/online/print materials, or artifacts.
4. understand global patterns.
5. understand the interconnectedness, difference, and diversity of a global society.
6. analyse global problems or issues

EVALUATION:

Test

There will be 3 tests this semester.

Each test will display 42 questions, including 2 extra credit questions.

Each question, worth .5 points, will be multiple choice or True/False.

For each test you will need a dark green scantron form and a pencil ... please no pen.

Please make a note of the following schedule and PLEASE plan ahead ... NO MAKE-UP allowed.

Exam Schedule:

Test 1 (week 4) You will review Weeks 1, 2 and 3.

Test 2 (week 8) You will review Weeks 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Test 3 (week 12) You will review Weeks 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Exercise

Five exercises are scheduled this semester.

Each exercise is worth 4 points.

Each exercise will be submitted in Blackboard.

Each exercise will open on Thursday at 6 am and is due no later than the following Wednesday at 7 pm: at this date and time, any missing exercise will be graded as zero.

Final Project

You will build a one week trip either in **South America or in East Asia**. The description of the Final Project can be found in the "Syllabus and Documents".

The Final Project will be submitted in Blackboard no later than Wednesday December 16, 2015 at 11:59 pm

Grading percentage:

Tests	60%
Exercises	20%
Final Project	20%

Grade cutoffs will be as follows:

A 90% – 100%

B 80% - **89.99%**

C 69% - **79.99%**

D 60% - **68.99%**

F less than 60%

EXPECTATIONS: A classroom is a learning place so please arrive on time.
Leave drinks and snacks outside the classroom and turn off the cellphones and the pagers.
I remind you that I do allow laptops in class but please use them in an appropriate way : I mean that laptop in class has NOTHING to do with chatting, surfing, browsing, checking your personal emails or anything else other than taking notes from the lecture.
In event of class cancellation, the class will resume where we left off.
Adjustments will be made later and you will be notified via email.
I do expect that your GMU email address is active as I will communicate with you via email and I will only be using the GMU email address as it does appear on the Patriotweb site
I do expect that you access blackboard
I do expect the students to understand that I will enter the grades on Patriotweb twice a semester: midterm grades and final grades .

Last day to drop with no tuition penalty: Tuesday September 8, 2015

Last day to add class: Tuesday September 8, 2015

SCHEDULE (adjustments might be possible)

The readings below refer to the recommended textbook. As the textbook is recommended, the readings appearing are recommended as well.

In addition to these recommended readings, there are mandatory readings such as articles and sites. The mandatory readings appear in the reading assignments in Blackboard.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Week 0 08/26	None	Syllabus	None
Week 1 09/02	Syllabus Geography	World on maps Page 9 and Page 10 Geography's Perspective page 10 to Page 12 What do geographers do? Page 42	Exercise 1 Due on 09/09 no later than 7 pm
Week 2 09/09	Population	Realms of population: Page 23 to Page 25 Demographic transition: Page 198 to Page 201	
Week 3 09/16	Development	Geography of Development Page 34 to 39	Exercise 2 Due on 09/23 no later than 7 pm
Week 4 09/23	North America	Discussion	Test 1
Week 5 09/30	North America	North America's Physical Geography: Page 99-101 Cultural Foundations Page: 103 The Federal Map Of North America: Page 104-107 Urbanization And The Spatial Economy: Page 109-114	
Week 6 10/07	Middle America	Geographical Features: Page 121-125 Physical Geography: Page 125-127 Cultural Geography:	Exercise 3

		Page 127-130	
Week 7 10/14	South America	States Ancient And Modern: Page 139-142 The Cultural Mosaic: Page 142-144 Economic Geography: Page 145-148 Urbanization: Page 149-152	
Week 8 10/21	South America	Discussion	Test 2
Week 9 10/28	Sub Saharan Africa	Historical Geography: Page 159-165 Postcolonial Africa: Page 165-166 Africans And Their Land: Page 169-173	
Week 10 11/04	Europe	Geographical features Page 46 to Page 50 Contemporary Europe Page 54 to Page 57	Exercise 4
Week 11 11/11	Russia	Russian roots Page 80 to Page 81 Building the Russian Empire Page 82 to Page 87 The new Russia Page 87 to Page 92	
Week 12 11/18	South Asia	Population Geography: Page 237-241 South East Asia's Emerging Markets: Page 245-247 States And Boundaries: Page 249-253	Test 3
Week 13 11/25	Happy Thanksgiving	Happy Thanksgiving	Happy Thanksgiving

Week 14 12/02	East Asia	China's Historical Role In East Asia: Page 217- 221 Japan's Historical Role In East Asia: Page 221- 223 East Asia's Economic Stature: Page 225-226 Geopolitics In East Asia: Page 226-228	Exercise 5
Week 14 12/09	The Green Revolution	Discussion	
Week 15 12/16	Final project is due no later than Wednesday 12/ 16 at 11:59 pm	Final project is due no later than Wednesday 12/16 at 11:59 pm	Final project is due no later than Wednesday 12/16 at 11:59 pm

Thanks for choosing GGS 101.

I wish you an enjoyable semester.

PB