

## **Distance Education GGS 103: Human Geography**

**Fall Semester 2016**

**GGS 103 fulfills Mason Core requirement in Social and behavioral science.**

**Instructor:** Patricia Boudinot

**Email:** [pboudino@gmu.edu](mailto:pboudino@gmu.edu)

**Virtual Office Hours:** I am available between Sunday at 7 pm through Friday at 7 pm to respond to student inquiries and during this five day period, I will try my very best to respond within 24 hours. If necessary an appointment can be scheduled via Skype.

**Campus Office Hours:** Wednesday between 8 am and 10 am at Exploratory Hall, Room 2201. I highly encourage the students to come to my office.

### **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.”

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](#)

### **Content:**

This course introduces students to the study of patterns and processes that have shaped the use and the modification of the Earth's surface. In the changing world, this course will encourage students to make important connections across boundaries.

### **Course Prerequisites:**

There are no formal prerequisites.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Master spatial awareness by using appropriate geographic tools.
2. Describe and then explain a geographic document such as map/photograph/chart.
3. Make the difference between quantitative and qualitative information
4. Understand the social and behavioral sciences
5. Analyze empirical observations in relation to theory
6. Use proper citation
7. Identify, evaluate and properly cite resources appropriate to the field, such as audio/visual/online/print materials and artifacts.
8. Using Google Earth you will build a final project on one human impact in the local environment.

**Required textbook:**

*Contemporary Human Geography, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition* by James Rubinstein, Pearson Edition.

**Important Dates:**

**Last day to add class:** Tuesday September 6, 2016

**Last day to drop without penalty:** Tuesday September 6, 2016

**Learning Community:**

In this online course, each week opens on Tuesday.

Each week is structured as follows: readings in the textbook and in other sources, video lectures and assignments.

**Working online requires dedication and organization. Students must check their GMU email messages on a daily basis and communicate any questions or problems that might arise promptly.**

**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](#).

**Performance-based assignments:**

You will be evaluated by the tasks which appear below.

**I expect all students to submit all the assignments on time as this is a no late submission policy distance education course: any missing assignment will be graded as zero.**

## **Course orientation quiz**

The course orientation quiz which will be offered as soon as Week 0 and it is due no later than Thursday September 08, 2016 at 11:59 pm.

Please review the syllabus.

The course orientation quiz will last 15 minutes, will display eight questions: each question, worth .25 point, will be multiple choice or True/False.

## **Test**

Three tests are scheduled this Semester. Each test will last 50 minutes, will display thirty four questions ( including two extra credit questions): each question, worth .5 points, will be multiple choice or True/False.

Each of the three tests will open on Friday at 6 am and will close the following Monday no later than 11:59 pm.

Please understand that all materials will be used to generate questions: textbook readings and other items appearing in the reading assignments, close-captioned video lectures and exercises.

## **Exercise**

Five exercises are scheduled this Semester.

Each exercise will open on Wednesday at 6 am and will close the following Monday at 11:59 pm

## **Discussion**

Three Discussions are scheduled this Semester.

The discussion will be open on Blackboard on Wednesday at 6 a.m. and it will close the following Monday at 11:59 pm.

There are two mandatory steps to completing the Discussion

Step 1: submit your initial post .

Step 2: read your classmates' posts and reply to four of them .

Please note that your initial post and your four replies will be accurate and will range between 50 to 60 words

Please understand that I expect all the students to post and reply on TWO DIFFERENT DAYS.

## Final Project

You will expose one human impact in the Chesapeake Watershed.

The description of the Final Project can be found in the “Syllabus and Documents”. Please read it carefully.

There are two steps to completing your Final Project.

1. Step 1/ Week 7
2. Step 2/ Week 15: **submit your Final Project no later than Tuesday December 13, 2016 at 11:59 pm**

Please note that all the times are EST (Eastern Standard Time)

**STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL ACTIVITIES**

## GRADING PERCENTAGE

2%	Course orientation quiz
48%	Tests
20%	Final Project
15%	Discussions
15%	Exercises

## Grade cut-offs:

A 90% – 100%

B 80% - **89.99%**

C 69% - **79.99%**

D 60% - **68.99%**


F less than 60%

## Schedule

Learning Modules	Textbook Reading Assignments	Video lectures	Assignment Type and their due date
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	<b>Other reading assignments will appear every week</b>		
<b>Week 0</b> <b>08/23</b>	<b>None</b>	Course Orientation Video	<b>Course orientation quiz</b> due no later than 09/08 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 1</b> <b>08/30</b> <b>Geography</b>	Chapter 1	Geography 1  Geography 2	<b>Introduce yourself</b>  <b>Mark your calendar</b>  <b>Get familiar with Google Earth</b>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>09/06</b> <b>Population Geography</b>	Chapter 2	Geography of Population 1  Geography of Population 2	<b>Exercise 1</b> due no later than 09/12 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 3</b> <b>09/13</b> <b>Population Geography</b>	Chapter 2	Geography of Population 3  Geography of Population 4	<b>Exercise 2</b> due no later than 09/19 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 4</b> <b>09/20</b> <b>Development</b>	Chapter 9	Development 1  Development 2	<b>Test 1</b> due no later than 09/26 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 5</b> <b>09/27</b> <b>Migrations</b>	Chapter 3	Migrations 1  Migrations 2	<b>Exercise 3</b> due no later than 10/03 at 11:59 pm

<b>Week 6</b> <b>10/04</b> <b>Culture</b>	Chapter 4	Culture 1 Culture 2	<b>Discussion 1</b> The post and the four replies are expected to be entered on two different days no later than 10/10 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 7</b> <b>10/11</b> <b>Languages</b>	Chapter 5	Languages 1 Languages 2	<b>Final Project</b> <b>Step 1</b> Due no later than 10/17 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 8</b> <b>Religion</b> <b>10/18</b>	Chapter 6	Religion 1 Religion 2	<b>Test 2</b> due no later than 10/24 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 9</b> <b>10/25</b> Political Geography	Chapter 8	European Union 1 European Union 2	<b>Discussion 2</b> The post and the four replies are expected to be entered on two different days no later than 10/31 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 10</b> <b>11/01</b> <b>Agriculture</b>	Chapter 10	Agriculture 1 Agriculture 2	<b>Exercise 4</b> due no later than 11/07 at 11:59 pm

<b>Week 11</b> <b>11/08</b> <b>Agriculture</b>	Chapter 10	Agriculture 3 Agriculture 4	<b>Exercise 5</b> due no later than 11/15 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 12</b> <b>11/15</b> <b>Urban Geography</b>	Chapter 13	Urban Geography 1 Urban Geography 2	<b>Test 3</b> due no later than 11/21 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 13</b> <b>11/22</b>	None	None	<b>Happy Thanksgiving</b> 
<b>Week 14</b> <b>11/29</b>	Chapter 13	North American Metropolitan Area South American Metropolitan Area	<b>Discussion 3</b> The post and the four replies are expected to be entered on two different days no later than 12/05 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 15</b> <b>12/06</b>	<b>Chapter 14</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Week 16</b> <b>12/12</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Final project</b> <b>due no later than</b> <b>Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup></b> <b>at 11:59 pm</b>

### Technology requirements:

#### Hardware:

You will need access to a Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and to a fast and reliable broadband internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. You will need speakers or headphones to

hear recorded content and a headset with a microphone is recommended for the best experience. For the amount of Hard Disk Space required to take a distance education course consider and allow for: 1. the storage amount needed to install any additional software and 2. space to store work that you will do for the course. If you are considering the purchase of a new computer, please go to <http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/services-students.cfm> to see recommendations.

## **Software:**

This course uses Blackboard as the learning management system.

You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the myMason Portal. See [supported browsers and operating systems](#).

Log in to [myMason](#) to access this course.

Access to a Computer Workstation with:

Web browser (See Blackboard [supported browsers and operating systems](#))

Adobe Acrobat Reader ([free download](#))

Flash Player ([free download](#))

Windows Media Player ([free download](#))

Microsoft Office Word ([purchase](#))

Note: If you are using an employer-provided computer or corporate office for class attendance, please verify with your systems administrators that you will be able to install the necessary applications and that system or corporate firewalls do not block access to any sites or media types.

## **Students Expectations:**

### **Academic Integrity**

Students must be responsible for their own work, and students and faculty must take on the responsibility of dealing explicitly with violations. The tenet must be a foundation of our university culture. [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/distance>].

### **Honor Code**

Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode>].

### **MasonLive/Email (GMU Email)**

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account. [See <https://thanatos.gmu.edu/masonlive/login>].



### **Patriot Pass**

Once you sign up for your Patriot Pass, your passwords will be synchronized, and you will use your Patriot Pass username and password to log in to the following systems: Blackboard, University Libraries, MasonLive, myMason, Patriot Web, Virtual Computing Lab, and WEMS. [See <https://thanatos.gmu.edu/passwordchange/index.jsp>].

### **Responsible Use of Computing**

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu>].

### **Students are expected to follow courteous Internet etiquette**

#### **Students 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, 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>].