

GGG 103 – Section 002: Human Geography

Mon/Weds 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm, David King Jr. Hall, Room 1006

Instructor: Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Email: crosenfe@gmu.edu, 703-993-4298

Office: Exploratory Hall, Room 2216

Office Hours: TR 1:45-2:45, W 9:15-10:15, by appointment, & by Blackboard chat

REQUIRED TEXT

Knox, P., & Marston, S. (2016). *Human geography: Places and regions in global context* (7th ed.). New York, NY: Pearson Publishing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the major branch of geography called human geography. The study of human geography investigates how people and human activities are connected to and interact with place, space, and 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 – agricultural practices, Twitter use, industrialization, etc. – distributed spatially? Why do certain patterns of human activity exist on the landscape in the way that they do? Human geographers are invested in understanding the spatial distribution of human activity and humans' relationships with place in order to identify, interrogate, and reduce social inequalities. If any of this sounds intriguing to you, then you're in the right place! Welcome!

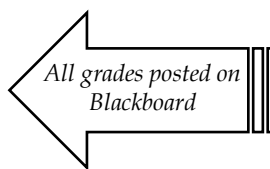
LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course satisfies the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement for the Mason Core and is tied to the following 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 & REQUIREMENTS

Participation & Attendance.....	10%
Homework Assignments.....	20%
Midterm	25%
Final Project	20%
Final Exam	25%



GRADE CUTOFFS

A	93%-100%	C+	78%-79%
A-	90%-92%	C	70%-77%
B+	88%-89%	D	60%-69%
B	83%-87%	F	0%-59%
B-	80%-82%		

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE (10%)

You are expected to come to class on time, prepared, and ready to participate every day. Failure to do so will negatively affect your grade. Instead of calling out attendance every day, there will be a poll each class period which will be used to assess your attendance. Your participation in the polls will make up your participation/attendance grade barring you are otherwise engaged in and showing up to class on time. Life and class are both better when we respect each other and are polite, so I expect nothing less than this in all ways that you participate in this class.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (20%)

There will be 3 homework assignments throughout the semester. See Blackboard for specific instructions. The lowest grade out of all 3 will be dropped (Example 1: if you get a 90%, 85%, and 74%, the 74% will be dropped; Example 2: if you get an 80% on 2 of the assignments and do not complete the 3rd, your overall grade will reflect the 2 assignments you completed). If you complete all 3 and achieve at least an 80% on each, you will receive extra credit.

MIDTERM (25%)

40 question multiple choice exam; some questions may require you to write out a 1-2 word example.

FINAL PROJECT (20%)

Create a 10 minute podcast episode featuring an approved topic related to human geography. As a group you must create an outline, a script, and a recording. Snippets of final recordings will be shared in class, but there are no graded class presentations. Full details on Blackboard.

FINAL EXAM (25%)

40 question multiple choice exam; some questions may require you to write out a 1-2 word example. **Not* comprehensive (i.e. only covers material taught AFTER the midterm).

ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES

All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard. Save assignments as word documents and upload to Blackboard; do NOT type assignment directly into Blackboard unless otherwise specified. All assignments are due by the start of class on their due date.

Modifications for snow days/closures will be announced via email. Assignments due on a snow day/closure are STILL due on that day by the start of class unless otherwise specified

You are responsible for proper and timely submission. If you have a technical issue and cannot submit via Blackboard, you MUST email me a copy of the assignment before it is due in order to receive credit. Please avoid this by submitting to Blackboard before the last minute.

LATE & MISSING ASSIGNMENT/EXAM POLICY

You are responsible for completing assignments and exams on time. Due dates are clearly indicated on the syllabus. Unless previous arrangements have been made with me accompanied by university-compliant documentation, I do not accept late work or make up exams. That means that it is 100% on you to communicate any conflict with me prior to any due date/exam date to see if the university accepts the reason for the conflict.

EMAIL POLICY

In compliance with a University-wide initiative, correspondence between instructors and students must only occur through GMU assigned email accounts. Check your email daily, before you come to office hours to check for a cancellation, and after turning in assignments on Blackboard in case there was a technical error and your assignment did not upload.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

The use of electronic devices is permitted in class for note-taking and to access course materials. If the use of any electronic device proves to be a distraction to you or others (including myself), I reserve the right to amend this policy for any or all students at any time for any length of time.

Cell phones are not permitted in class UNLESS the instructor asks you to use them for in-class polling after which you must put them away. Please silence all electronic devices before class begins. If you must use your cell phone for an emergency, please leave the room; if you know you will have to leave or check your phone during class, please alert me beforehand.

RESOURCES

Writing Resources: Tutors at the Writing Center are available to assist you: Robinson B, room 213, 703-993-1200, writingcenter.gmu.edu

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

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 instructor.

Library Study Rooms: library.gmu.edu/use/study-rooms

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: SUB I, suite 3200, 703-993-3686, ssac.gmu.edu

Food Pantry: Access food and household items: SUB I, suite 3011, pantry@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. Please consult me with questions prior to turning in assignments. The official GMU policies are available from the Office of Academic Integrity: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/>.

**Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class, via email, and on Blackboard*

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Agenda/Topic	Due on this Date
Mon	8/27	Introduction/syllabus review	
Weds	8/29	Chapter 1: Geography Matters	
Mon	9/3	Labor Day--GMU closed	
Weds	9/5	Chapter 2: The Changing Global Context	
Mon	9/10	Chapter 3: Geographies of Population & Migration	
Weds	9/12	Chapter 3: Geographies of Population & Migration	
Mon	9/17	Chapter 4: People & Nature	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework Assignment 1
Weds	9/19	Chapter 4: People & Nature	
Mon	9/24	Chapter 5: Cultural Geographies	
Weds	9/26	Chapter 5: Cultural Geographies	
Mon	10/1	Midterm Review	
Weds	10/3	MIDTERM	
Mon	10/8	Fall Break--GMU closed	
Tues	10/9	Indigenous Landscapes	
Weds	10/10	Chapter 6: Language, Communication, & Belief	
Mon	10/15	Research Methods Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework Assignment 2
Weds	10/17	Chapter 7: Interpreting Places & Landscapes	
Mon	10/22	Chapter 7: Interpreting Places & Landscapes	

Weds	10/24	Final project in class group work	
Mon	10/29	Chapter 8: Geographies of Economic Development	
Weds	10/31	Chapter 8: Geographies of Economic Development	
Mon	11/5	Chapter 9: Geographies of Food & Agriculture	
Weds	11/7	Chapter 9: Geographies of Food & Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Homework Assignment 3
Mon	11/12	Chapter 10: Political Geographies	
Weds	11/14	Chapter 10: Political Geographies	
Mon	11/19	Follow That Food	
Weds	11/21	Thanksgiving recess--GMU closed	
Mon	11/26	Chapter 11: Urban. & the Gl. Urb. Sys. Final project in class group work	
Weds	11/28	Chapter 12: City Spaces: Urban Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Final Project
Mon	12/3	Final exam review Share final projects	
Weds	12/5	FINAL EXAM	