

GGIS 101-003
Major World Regions
Spring 2015 – R – 4:30-7:10 David King Jr. Hall 1006

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Kozar

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Office Hours: If my door is open, come on in, but if you insist: W 1:30-3 and R 2-4, or by appointment.

Course Materials:

- Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts, 16th Edition, de Blij, Muller, and Nijman.
- Access code for WileyPLUS online learning space is optional and is being made available for purchase if you choose to utilize it to further supplement your studies.
- Additional readings to be supplied when appropriate.

Course Description: Geography 101 is an introductory course in geography. As an introductory course it will cover a broad array of topics in geography as it pertains to world regions. You will also learn a basic understanding of geographic thought and concepts. Geographers are at the forefront of understanding the development of world regions in the context of globalization and as significant centers of cultural, social, and economic activity.

Mason Core: GGS 101 meets the **Global Understanding** requirement of the Mason Core: Core Requirements. The goals of Global Understanding are accomplished through three learning outcomes: 1. demonstrate understanding of global patterns and processes; 2. demonstrate understanding of the interconnectedness, difference, and diversity of global society; explore individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical, practical, or creative responses to problems or issues, using resources appropriate to the field.

Grading: There will be three (3) exams in this course. Each exam will be multiple choice. 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. There will also be four (4) map quizzes in this course. Material for map quizzes will typically be reviewed/distributed a week before the quiz date. Finally, throughout the semester you will be asked to provide written in-class reflections on course material either individually or as a group. To earn full credit for the in-class exercises you need to submit at least eight (8) written reflections.

3 Exams @ 20% = 60%

4 Map Quizzes @ 8% = 32%

In-class Exercises = 8%

Total = 100%

Final Grading Scale: A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), 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. **No phones or other electronic devices.** 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 February 19

1. World Regional Geography: Introduction
2. Europe: Chapter 1
3. Russia: Chapter 2
4. North America: Chapter 3

Second Exam – Thursday April 2

1. Middle America: Chapter 4
2. South America: Chapter 5
3. Sub-Saharan Africa: Chapter 6
4. North Africa/Southwest Asia: Chapter 7

Final Exam – Thursday May 7 – (4:30 p.m. - 7:10 p.m.)

1. South Asia: Chapter 8
2. East Asia: Chapter 9
3. Southeast Asia: Chapter 10
4. Australia and Pacific: Chapters 11 and 12

Map Quizzes Tentative Schedule

- Map Quiz 1: Thursday February 19 (with First Exam)
- Map Quiz 2: Thursday March 5
- Map Quiz 3: Thursday April 2 (with Second Exam)
- Map Quiz 4: Thursday May 7 (with Final Exam)