

GGG 103-001: Human Geography

Spring 2016 – Monday, 4:30pm – 7:10pm, Robinson Hall B208

Instructor: Dr. Kalyn Rossiter

Email (I do not check emails after 9pm or before 7am): krossite@gmu.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Materials:

The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, 11th Edition, Rubenstein, J.

Course Description:

GGG 103 is an introductory course in human geography. The course offers an overview of major ideas and approaches to study the spatial aspects of human social and behavioral systems. Although many patterns of human activity may seem random, they are influenced by geographic causes and effects. You will learn the tools and techniques used to explain these geographic patterns and interactions.

Mason Core:

GGG 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 exams in this course. The final exam is not cumulative but will be given during the final exam period. There is also a short essay about a place and research paper on a human geography topic. More details will be provided later.

Exam One – 25%

Exam Two – 25%

Final Exam – 25%

Short Essay – 10%

Research Paper – 15%

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 and Student Conduct:

Participation and attendance in this course are expected. No phones. Those not participating will see a reduction in points. Exam materials will come from lectures and book chapters. If you are absent from class, please obtain notes from a fellow student. Late assignments will not be accepted. Make-up exams are not given except under unusual circumstances and with prior approval. You must use your

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

All students are required to 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 (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>). Failure to abide by the code could result in failure of the course and dismissal from the University.

Diversity Statement:

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, 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 is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but 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.

The reflection of Mason's commitment to diversity and inclusion goes beyond policies and procedures to focus on behavior at the individual, group and organizational level. The implementation of this commitment to diversity and inclusion is found in all settings, including individual work units and groups, student organizations and groups, and classroom settings; it is also found with the delivery of services and activities, including, but not limited to, curriculum, teaching, events, advising, research, service, and community outreach.

Acknowledging that the attainment of diversity and inclusion are dynamic and continuous processes, and that the larger societal setting has an evolving socio-cultural understanding of diversity and inclusion, Mason seeks to continuously improve its environment. To this end, the University promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment regarding diversity. The aim is to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group and organization, and to make improvements as needed.

Course Outline (subject to change):

January 25, 2016: Chapter 1, Basic Concepts

February 1, 2016: Chapter 2, Population and Health

February 8, 2016: Chapter 3, Migration; **Short Essay Due**

February 15, 2016: Chapter 8, Political Geography

February 22, 2016: Exam One

February 29, 2016: Chapter 4, Folk and Popular Culture

March 7, 2016: Spring Break

March 14, 2016: Chapter 5, Languages; **Research Paper Draft Due**

March 21, 2016: Chapter 6, Religions and Chapter 7, Ethnicities

March 28, 2016: Class Cancelled

April 4, 2016: Exam Two

April 11, 2016: Chapter 9, Development

April 18, 2016: Chapter 10, Food and Agriculture

April 25, 2016: Chapter 11, Industry and Manufacturing

May 2, 2016: Chapter 12, Services and Settlements and Chapter 13, Urban Patterns; **Research Paper Due**

TBD: Final Exam