

George Mason University
Department of Geography and Geoinformation Sciences
GGIS 103: Human Geography – Spring 2017

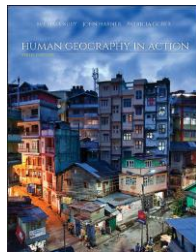
Class time: 12:00 – 1:15 pm (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Location: Exploratory Hall, Room 2103

Instructor: Aaron P. Mulhollen
Exploratory Hall, Room 1102
amulholl@masonlive.gmu.edu

Office hours: Exploratory Hall, Room 1102
Wednesdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Fridays, by appointment

Req'd Text: *Human Geography in Action, 6th Edition.*, Kuby, Michael; Harner, John; Gober, Patricia. Wiley, 2013.
ISBN: 978-1118422571
Textbook website: <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-EHEP002422.html>



You should read the chapters before each class period. It will be much more beneficial to you for lecture and class discussion.

ODS Notice: If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance: 1). please let me know; and 2) be sure this documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 2500; 703-993-2474; <http://ods.gmu.edu>) so that they can make a determination about proper accommodations. As a matter of university policy, I cannot provide accommodations without documentation from the ODS.

Description: Human geography is the study of human activities, structures, organization, and relationships in our world. This course will focus on human existence in, and use of, space and place. Current events will be discussed as they relate to course material. Key geographic concepts will be covered throughout the semester. Class discussion will be an integral part of this course.

Objectives: This course is part of the Mason Core, which incorporates specific learning outcomes as part of the liberal arts education received by every George Mason student. The following objectives, while specific for this course, support **Mason Core** learning outcomes for the **Social and Behavioral Sciences**:

1. Discuss how human geography pertains to society, culture, conflict, economy, politics, and human/environment interactions.
2. Integrate human geography concepts and spatial theories into our understanding of current events.
3. Introduce basic cartographic concepts.
4. Introduce the formal research process through instruction on paper structure, citations, and bibliographies.

Blackboard: Information for the course, to include assignments, will be disseminated via the course website on Blackboard.

GMU Email: GMU email is the only type of email communication that will be recognized for this course.

Grading: Grades for this course are based on individual performance versus a consistent standard. There is no curve – so if everyone earns an ‘A’, everyone will receive an ‘A’. Grades will be based upon performance in the following areas:

Exams 1-3:	49%	150 points (50 points each)
Attendance:	8%	25 points
Assignments:	13%	40 points (20 points each)
Research Question:	3%	10 points
Research Plan:	7%	20 points
Data Survey:	7%	20 points
<u>Final Project Outline:</u>	<u>13%</u>	<u>40 points</u>
Total:	100%	305 points

Grades will be determined according to the following scale:

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89.99%	B
70 – 79.99%	C
60 – 69.99%	D
below 60%	F

Exams: There will be three exams for this course. Exams will cover current sections of the course, as noted in the course schedule. More specific descriptions will be given prior to each exam. Make-up exams will not be given without prior arrangement with the instructor, documented illness, or university-approved excused absences.

Assignments: During the course of the semester, there will be two assignments specific to the current activities in class. Specific instructions will be given in class, and posted on Blackboard.

Term Project: You may choose any topic in Human Geography. The only requirement is that the topic must express “spatial thinking.” Try to find a topic you have an interest in (politics, population, poverty, music, sports, food, religion, etc.). Topics must be selected and cleared by the instructor by the 6th week of class. Including topic submission, there will be four parts to complete throughout the semester. At a minimum, six sources of information should be used, at least three of which should be peer reviewed journal articles.

Attendance: Attendance is required for all scheduled class periods. Daily sign-in sheets will be recorded. The rationale for the attendance policy for this course is twofold. First, as with most things in life, showing up is 90% of performance and results. I believe that being in class is an integral part of the learning process. Second, you will have the opportunity to evaluate me as an instructor at the end of the semester. The university, department, and I truly value your opinions, criticisms, and suggestions, so it is important that you have the opportunity to formulate valid critiques.

An added enhancement to this policy is the opportunity to earn one point per non-exam day of attendance, for a total of 26 points. Since Attendance is graded out of 25, one point serves as a bonus point towards your grade.

Honor Code: The George Mason University Honor Code is in effect for this course:

“To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this:

Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, and/or lie in matters related to academic work.”

Pursuant to university policy, any suspected activity that violates the Honor Code will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Important Dates: Last day to add classes/Last day to drop with no tuition penalty: January 30th
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty: February 13th
Final drop deadline (67% tuition penalty): February 24th
Final Exam: Thursday, May 11th at 10:30 am

Course Schedule

	Date	Discussion Topic or Activity	Background Reading	Notes
Section 1	T (1-24)	Course Introduction; Fundamental Mapping Concepts	Chapter 1	
	R (1-26)			
	T (1-31)	Culture, Region, Scales	Chapter 2	
	R (2-2)			
	T (2-7)	Diffusion	Chapter 3	
	R (2-9)	Migration	Chapter 4	
	T (2-14)			
	R (2-16)	Population	Chapter 5	Assignment 1 Due: 2/21
	T (2-21)			
R (2-23)	Exam 1			
Section 2	T (2-28)	Economic Geography:	Chapter 6	Research Question Due: 3/2
	R (3-2)	Employment		
	T (3-7)	Development	Chapter 7	
	R (3-9)	Globalization of Agriculture	Chapter 8	
	T (3-14)	<i>No Class - Spring Break</i>		
	R (3-16)			
	T (3-21)	Globalization of Agriculture	Chapter 8	
	R (3-23)	Markets & Urban Hierarchy	Chapter 9	Research Plan Due: 3/28
	T (3-28)			
	R (3-30)	Modeling Urban Structures	Chapter 10	Assignment 2 Due: 4/4
	T (4-4)			
R (4-6)	Exam 2			
Section 3	T (4-11)	Urban Processes: Growth	Chapter 11	
	R (4-13)			
	T (4-18)	Urban Processes: Population	Chapter 12	Data Survey Due: 4/20
	R (4-20)			
	T (4-25)	Political Geography	Chapter 13	
	R (4-27)			
	T (5-2)	Human-Environment Interaction	Chapter 14	Final Project Outline Due: 5/4
	R (5-4)			
	T (5-9)	<i>Reading Day</i>		
R (5-11)	Final Exam - 10:30 am - 1:15 pm			

***Notes:**

¹This is a flexible course outline. The instructor reserves the right to make changes when necessary.

²The current "official" copy of the syllabus/course outline will be kept on Blackboard. Students will be notified of any changes