

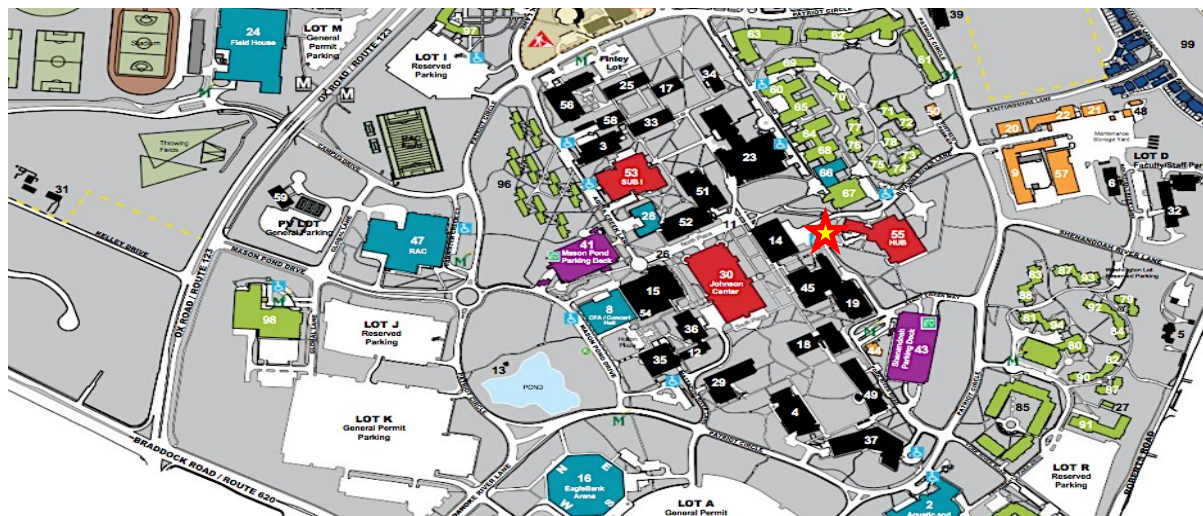
GGS 101-003 – Major World Regions

Ron Mahabir

Spring 2018

Major World Regions

- GGS 101 Section 003
- Planetary Hall
- Room 131
- MW 12:00 – 1:15pm
- Office hours – Tuesday 12-1pm, Exploratory Hall, Room 2417 (or by appointment)



Your Textbook



- *The Plaid Avenger's World: A Populist Apocalypse Edition, 9th Ed. (2017)*
- John Boyer (prof. at VT)
- ISBN-10: 1524922536
- ISBN-13: 978-1524922535
- Textbook Website:
<http://www.plaidavenger.com>
- *Your code will give you access to supplemental materials*
- Required text
- Read **before** you come to class
- Textbook
 - New vs Used
 - Older edition
 - Access code

Schedule (Revisions?)

Week	Date	Lecture	Readings	Notes
1	M (1-22)	Course introduction		*Normal class attendance required (NCAR)
1	W (1-24)	Map reading		NCAR
2	M (1-29)	Introduction to Geography	Chapter 1	NCAR
2	W (1-31)	Population	Chapter 2	NCAR
3	M (2-5)	Political Geography	Chapter 3	NCAR
3	W (2-7)	Economic Geography	Chapter 4	NCAR
4	M (2-12)	Developed Vs Developing	Chapter 5	NCAR – Assignment 1 due
4	W (2-14)	International Organizations	Chapter 6	NCAR
5	M (2-19)	Exam 1		
5	W (2-21)	North America	Chapter 7	NCAR
6	M (2-26)	Western Europe	Chapter 8	NCAR
6	W (2-28)	Eastern Europe	Chapter 9	NCAR
7	M (3-5)	Russia	Chapter 10	NCAR
7	W (3-7)	Japan	Chapter 11	NCAR
8	M (3-12)	Spring Break		No classes
8	W (3-14)	Spring Break		No classes
9	M (3-19)	Australia/New Zealand	Chapter 12	NCAR
9	W (3-21)	Latin America	Chapter 13	NCAR
10	M (3-26)	Exam 2		
10	W (3-27)	Mexico	Chapter 14	NCAR
11	M (4-2)	Central America	Chapter 15	NCAR
11	W (4-4)	Caribbean	Chapter 16	NCAR
12	M (4-9)	South America	Chapter 17	NCAR
12	W (4-11)	Middle East and North Africa	Chapter 18	NCAR
13	M (4-16)	Turkey	Chapter 19	NCAR
13	W (4-18)	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 20	NCAR
14	M (4-23)	South Asia	Chapter 21	NCAR
14	W (4-25)	Central Asia	Chapter 22	NCAR
15	M (4-30)	East Asia	Chapter 23	NCAR
15	W (5-2)	Southeast Asia	Chapter 24	NCAR
16	M (5-7)	Reading days		
16	W (5-9)	Exam 3		

Blackboard & Email

- Blackboard will be the primary mode of course information dissemination
- Assignments and lectures will be posted here
- Links to additional, outside sources of info are posted here
- Your syllabus and course schedule will be kept up-to-date
- Announcements will be frequent – **check the site daily!!!!**
- Email: Only GMU email addresses will be used for this course (emails from any other personal email addresses will be ignored – University Policy)
- Email me directly from your GMU address to mine:
rmahabir@gmu.edu

Grading

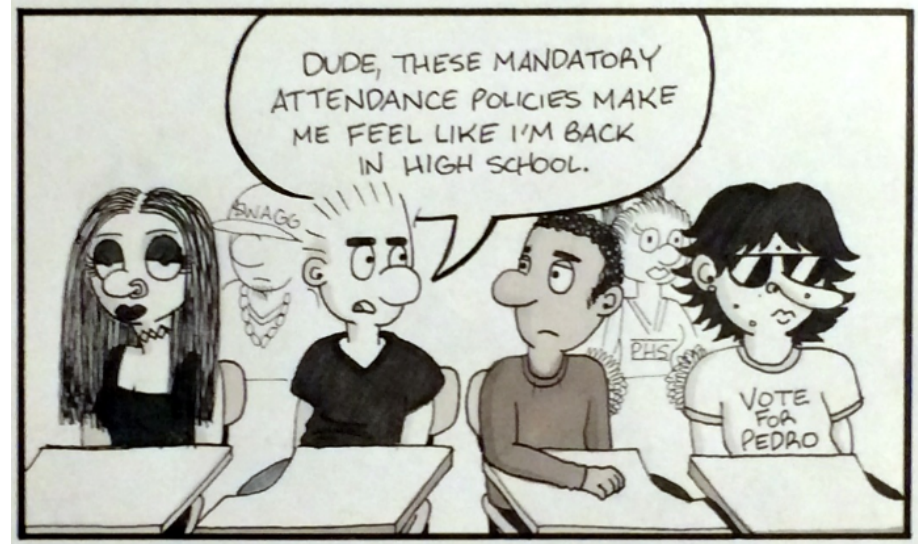
Exams 1-3:	60%	150 points (50 points each)
Attendance:	10%	25 points (1 point per day)
Assignment 1:	10%	20 points
Assignment 2:	10%	20 points
<u>Assignment 3:</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>20 points</u>
Total:	100%	235 points

Grading Scale

Range	Grade
93 – 100%	A
90 – 92%	A-
87 – 89%	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 82%	B-
77 – 79%	C+
73 – 76%	C
70 – 72%	C-
60 – 69%	D
0 – 59%	F

Attendance

- **Mandatory***
- 10% of your grade
- 1 point earned per day of attendance (non-exam days only)
- Sign-in sheets will be available. Sign in and get your points!
- Classroom participation is expected

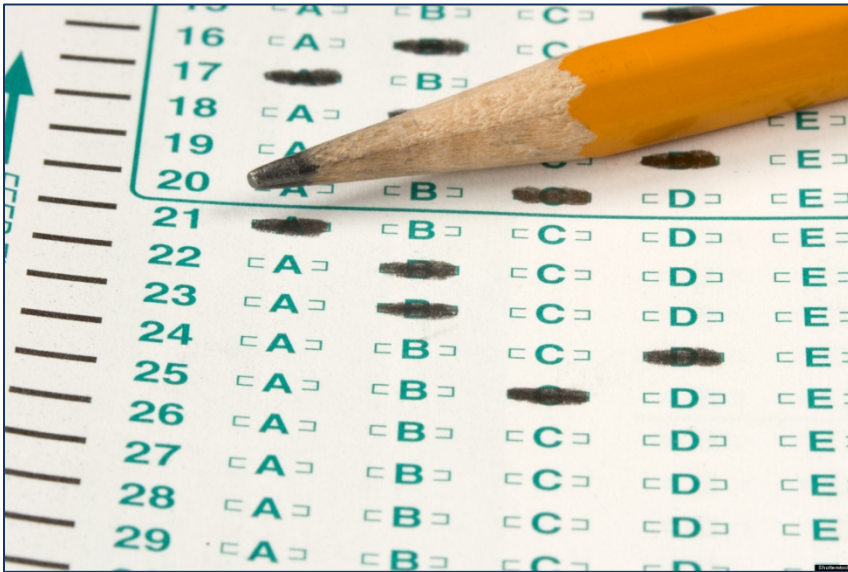


Assignments



- Only software you'll need is Google Earth (free download):
<http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>
- Available in GGS Labs in Exploratory Hall (Rm 2102)
- You'll also use the CIA World Factbook
- 3 assignments
 - Assignment 1: Google fusion tables
 - Assignment 2: Google Earth
 - Assignment 3?

Exams



- Exams 1-3 will cover textbook and lecture materials for specific sections
- Multiple choice will be the primary format
- *Bring a green Scantron (available from the bookstore) to each exam*
- Bring a No. 2 pencil

Classroom Etiquette

Do's:

- Be on time
- Be respectful of others
- Be engaged with the class
- Interject with your ideas/insights
- Use laptops to take notes only!



Don'ts:

- Use cell phones
- Be rude
- Surf the web; facebook; twitter, etc.
- **Cheat**

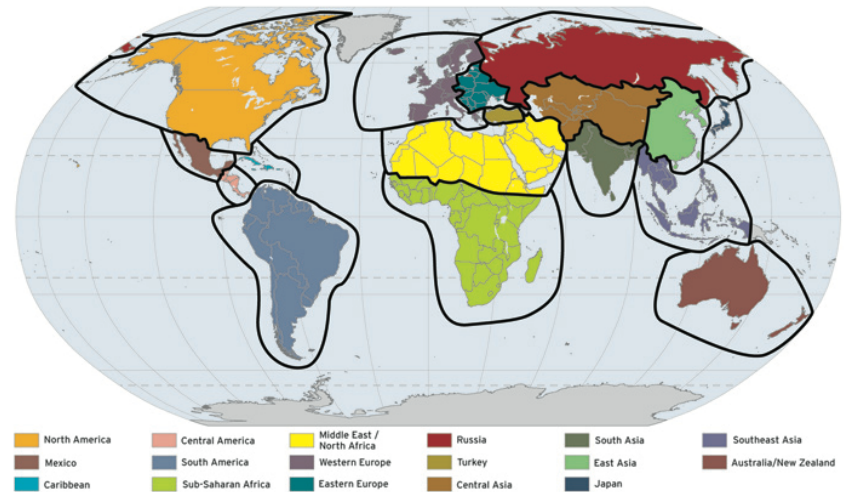


Don't Cheat!

- The Honor Code is in effect for this course
- <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/masons-honor-code/>
- Any/all suspected incidents must be reported to OAI
- For any cases of cheating, I must make two recommendations. Mine will be:
 - First offense: 'F' for the course, and academic probation
 - Second offense: expulsion from the university
- My advice: Do your best on your work, and take your grade like an adult

What is this class of Major World Regions?

- Introduction to the discipline of Geography
- Learn the “spatial” perspective
- How do we define a region?
- Introduction to geospatial technologies (more than Google Earth)
- Limited overview of “other” places and perspectives in the world

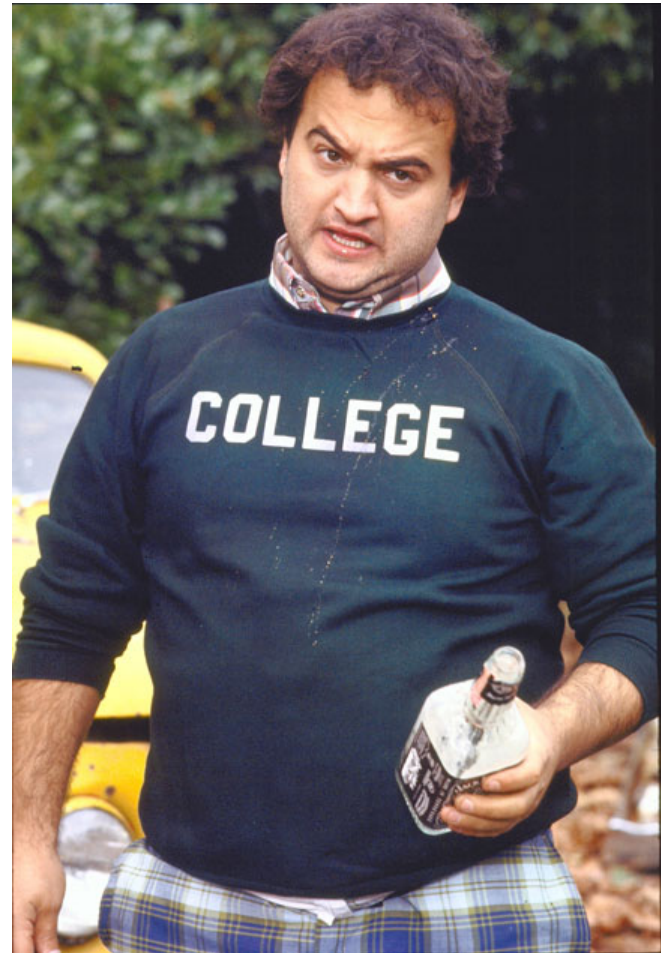


Source: John Boyer, aka, The Plaid Avenger
<http://www.thejohnboyer.com/world-regions/>

Words of Wisdom

Take your college experience seriously!

- The days of Animal House and the social experiment are unfortunately over...
- College now, is all about job training
- Get organized!
- You'll need to focus your efforts: Put school #1



A delicate balance: spend wisely, but don't be cheap about school

- College is an expensive investment
- Don't short-change your efforts – spend where you need to
- If you have to do so, borrow wisely, but
- Keep debt to a minimum



vs.



Go to class!!!!

- Go to class and read the text
- If you read something and don't understand it, read it again...
- Use your professors' office hours
- Use the library, and quiet study areas
- Ask questions, and learn how to communicate
- Don't cheat
- Grades aren't worth your integrity – they really aren't
 - For the most part, graduate schools care more about your GRE, MCAT scores than grades
 - Employers want skills, not necessarily high grade point averages
- That said, grades often reflect your level or ability with certain skills (see the relationship?)
- Know what your best is, and do everything you can to achieve it

Good Luck!

Questions:

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