

# GGG 101 – Section 004: Major World Regions

R 4:30 pm – 7:10 pm, Innovation Hall, Room 223

Professor: Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Contact: [crosenfe@gmu.edu](mailto:crosenfe@gmu.edu), Exploratory Hall 2216, 703-993-4298

Office Hours: MT 10:45-11:45 am, W 1:30-2:30 pm, and by appointment

TA: Pat Guillen-Piazza, [dguille2@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:dguille2@masonlive.gmu.edu)

LA: Khaled Dakak, [kdakak@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:kdakak@masonlive.gmu.edu)

LA office hours listed on Blackboard

---

## REQUIRED TEXT

Marston, S., Knox, P., Liverman, D., Del Casino, V., and Robbins, P. (2017). *World regions in global context: Peoples, places, and environments* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Pearson Publishing.

**\*Available at the campus bookstore and other retailers; on reserve at library; and available during LA office hours.**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION (3 credits)

This course provides a survey of cultural, physical, and societal aspects of major world regions. We will examine how forces across various scales, from local to global, shape the character of place and space. Furthermore, we will explore how regions differ from one another, are similar to one another, and interact with/interrelate to one another in today's globalizing world. Acquiring a familiarity with and a foundation in the geography of the major world regions allows us to ask more critical questions about the unevenness of various geographical processes and patterns on the landscape in addition to reflecting on our own role in the larger world.

## CLASSMATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS COURSE SATISFIES THE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING REQUIREMENT FOR THE MASON CORE.**

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Use geographic tools and data sources to profile place and read and interpret information on maps, charts, and photos
2. Identify and describe how humans interact with and adapt to their environment
3. Describe world regions based on physical, cultural, and economic traits
4. Explain similarities, differences, and interdependencies among world regions across multiple scales
5. Identify the distribution of patterns of human and physical geographical features across the globe and describe the geographical processes that explain said patterns

## GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

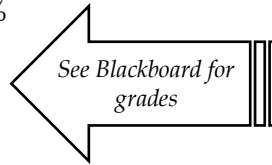
Participation.....	100 pts, 10%
HW 1.....	50 pts, 5%
HW 2.....	100 pts, 10%
HW 3.....	100 pts, 10%
HW 4.....	150 pts, 15%
Exams .....	500 pts, 50%

\*\*3 exams given; best 2 scores count (each of the top 2 exams: 250 pts, 25%)

## GRADE CUTOFFS BY POINTS

A+	980-1000	B-	800-829
A	930-979	C+	780-799
A-	900-929	C	700-779
B+	880-899	D	600-699
B	830-879	F	0-599

*Note: no C-*



It is your responsibility to check grades as soon as they are posted on Blackboard. If you feel there is an issue with your grade, you must contact your TA within 48 hours of the grade being posted to discuss.

### PARTICIPATION (100 pts, 10%)

You are expected to be in every class on time and stay for the entirety of the class. Your participation will be assessed in two ways: 1) By substantively and respectfully contributing during in-class activities and discussions and turning in activity materials distributed in class and 2) Turning in a hard-copy 5-sentence minimum typed summary of a current events article with a source link (suggested source: [www.csis.org](http://www.csis.org)) 3 times during the semester when called on randomly by the professor. You may be called on to verbally share your summary and/or turn it in to the professor to be read outside of class time.

### HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (400 pts collectively, 40%)

There are 4 homework assignments throughout the semester. See Blackboard for specific directions. Homeworks are graded on a rubric which will be visible in each Homework folder prior to the due date. All homeworks are required and are to be completed individually. See Assignment Procedures for SafeAssign explanation.

### 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 time on their due date 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 a copy of the assignment to your TA ***before*** it is due in order to receive credit. Please avoid having to do this by submitting to Blackboard before the last minute.

For HW 4, you will have two submission opportunities. This is so that you can submit your work once and view the University's plagiarism checker SafeAssign report; then you can correct anything that may be flagged and resubmit. The most recent submission is what will be graded. You are strongly encouraged to do this as plagiarism is treated seriously in compliance with university policy (see Academic Integrity section).

### **EXAMS & EXAM POLICY (500 pts collectively, 50%)**

There are 3 required exams over the course of the semester. The lowest grade of the three exams will be dropped. Exams are multiple choice and scantrons are provided by the professor.

You must show up on time for exams. **NO TEST WILL BE HANDED OUT AFTER THE FIRST PERSON TO FINISH HAS TURNED IN HIS/HER EXAM.** Make up exams are extremely rare, so do not expect one. If you have a university-approved absence and necessary supporting authenticated documentation, it is up to you to contact the professor in writing prior to an exam date to discuss the possibility of a make-up. If you cannot attend the exams, it is recommended that you take another section of this course.

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

If extra credit opportunities arise throughout the course of the semester, they will appear in the Extra Credit Opportunities folder on Blackboard.

### **LATE WORK POLICY**

At the start of the semester you have 1 late work token. This enables you to turn in 1 homework assignment up to 48 hours past the due date without penalty. The turn-in box on Blackboard closes when the assignment is due, so if you are using your token and turning something in late, you must email it directly to your TA clearly indicating you are using your late work token. If you intend to use a token and turn in an assignment past the 48-hour late work token grace period, your work will not be graded. If you have already used your token for one assignment and turn in another assignment late, your work will not be graded. If you have not used up your token at the end of the semester, you will get a small amount of extra credit. A late work token only pertains to homework assignments, not exams, any participation, or extra credit.

If you need an extension, it is your responsibility to contact the professor in writing *prior to the due date for consideration*.

### **SNOW DAY/CANCELLATION POLICY**

Please sign up for Mason Alert to be notified of campus closures. Modifications to class due to closures will be announced via Blackboard. **Assignments due on a closure or delay are STILL due on that day by the start of class** unless otherwise specified.

### **EMAIL POLICY**

In compliance with a University-wide initiative, correspondence between instructors and students must only occur through GMU assigned email accounts. If you email the professor, the TA, or the LA from a non-GMU email account, we will not respond or will respond letting you know to use your GMU email. If you send an email outside the regular business hours of M-F, 9am-5pm, you may not get a response until the next working day. Check your email daily, before you come to anyone's office hours to check for a cancellation, and after turning in assignments in case there was a technical error and your assignment did not upload properly.

Because of the large amount of students the professor, TA, and LA interact with each semester, it is essential that you include a few basic elements in any and all email correspondence:

Subject Line: Course # AND Section # (example: GGS 101 Sec 001)  
Quick salutation (example: Hi Khaled,)  
Body that clearly explains the question or problem you have  
Closing with first AND last name

### ELECTRONICS POLICY

The use of electronic devices (minus cell phones) is permitted in class for note-taking and to access course materials. If you use an electronic device in class for note-taking, I reserve the right to ask to examine your notes at any time before, during, or after the class. If the use of any electronic device proves to be a distraction to you or others, including myself, as assessed by the professor, 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 and you may not photograph slide content in class or during visits to LA office hours. If the professor asks you to get out your phone for an activity, you may do so but you must put it away when the activity is over. If you know you need to check your phone for an emergency during class, notify the professor before the class begins and you may be asked to leave the classroom to do so.

Any kind of ear phones or head phones, barring a special accommodation, are not permitted in class under any circumstances, including during in-class work time.

In addition to calling out behavior that breaks with these policies in class and potentially asking students to leave the classroom for non-compliance, **I keep notes of who is and who is not compliant throughout the course of the semester.** Failure to comply with the aforementioned policies does result in percentage points off your final grade and this could and has made the difference between grades of A and B, B and C, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ELECTRONICS POLICY AND/OR ENGAGING IN INAPPROPRIATE, INCLUDING DISTRACTING, IN-CLASS, BLACKBOARD, OR EMAIL BEHAVIOR WILL SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT YOUR GRADE\*\*\*\*\*

### CAMPUS RESOURCES

**Writing Resources:** Tutors at the Writing Center are available to assist you: Robinson B, room 213, 703-993-1200, [writingcenter.gmu.edu](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu)

**Tutoring:** See Blackboard for list of university tutoring services

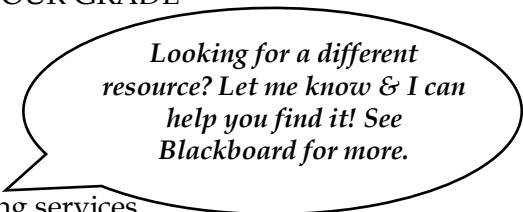
**Disability Services:** If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance, you should: 1) Make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Services--SUB I, suite 2500, 703-993-2474, [ds.gmu.edu](http://ds.gmu.edu) and 2) Discuss your accommodation needs with the instructor.

**Library Study Rooms:** [library.gmu.edu/use/study-rooms](http://library.gmu.edu/use/study-rooms)

**ITS Support Center:** Innovation Hall, Room 226, 703-993-8870

**Student Technology Assistance & Resource Center (STAR):** Provides all kinds of technology support: JC, room 229, 703-993-8990, [bit.ly/2hWjI0y](http://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](http://caps.gmu.edu)



*Looking for a different resource? Let me know & I can help you find it! See Blackboard for more.*

**Student Support & Advocacy Center:** Assistance regarding healthy lifestyle and educational choices; refer students you may be concerned about: SUB I, suite 3200, 703-993-3686, [ssac.gmu.edu](http://ssac.gmu.edu)

**Title IX:** [diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct](http://diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct), 703-993-8730, 373 Aquia Building

**Food Pantry:** Access food and household items: SUB I, suite 3011, [pantry@gmu.edu](mailto:pantry@gmu.edu)

## DEPARTMENTAL & COURSE RESOURCES

**GGs Student Computer Lab:** Exploratory Hall Room 2102. You will receive automatic “swipe” access using your Student ID while enrolled in this class. If you are having problems with door access, please email Sam Cooke ([scooke4@gmu.edu](mailto:scooke4@gmu.edu)). Email College of Science IT ([cosit@gmu.edu](mailto:cosit@gmu.edu)) for technical assistance.

**Professor:** Course & classroom issues and feedback, geography advising

**TA:** Grade-related questions

**LA:** Course content help, homework guidance, exam review. LAs help guide students through the course and facilitate an inviting and positive learning environment by offering the opportunity to interact with students during class and outside of class during office hours. LAs provide assistance on homework assignments, exam preparation, in-class activities, accessing and reading textbook content, and more. If you miss class, you are encouraged to visit your LA to get caught up to speed. You may NOT visit your LA during office hours in lieu of attending class. Class materials will not be made available during LA office hours until the week after materials are presented in class. You are not permitted to photograph class materials during LA office hours unless you receive a written exception from the professor and show your LA.

## 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. The official GMU policies are available from the Office of Academic Integrity: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/>. Please consult me, your LA, or your TA with questions prior to turning in assignments. See Assignment Procedures for information on checking for plagiarism.

*\*\*This syllabus is subject to change but if changes are made, aside from slight daily content adjustments, they will be discussed in class and via Blackboard email\*\**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Due on this Day by Start of Class
<b>1</b>	Thurs	1/24	Welcome & Introduction Thinking Geographically & Geographic Skills	<i>(last day to add 1/29)</i>
<b>2</b>	Thurs	1/31	Thinking Geographically & Geographic Skills	Homework Assignment 1 <i>(last day to drop with tuition refund 2/5)</i>
<b>3</b>	Thurs	2/7	Europe & Russian Federation etc	<i>(last day to drop with NO tuition refund 2/12)</i>
<b>4</b>	Thurs	2/14	Europe & Russian Federation etc	Homework Assignment 2
<b>5</b>	Thurs	2/21	US & Canada, Oceania Exam Review	
<b>6</b>	Thurs	2/28	<b>E X A M 1 (first half)</b> Africa (second half)	
<b>7</b>	Thurs	3/7	Africa	Homework Assignment 3
<b>8</b>	Thurs	3/14	<i>Spring Break--No Class</i>	
<b>9</b>	Thurs	3/21	Middle East	<i>(selective withdrawal period ends 3/25)</i>
<b>10</b>	Thurs	3/28	Middle East Exam Review	
<b>11</b>	Thurs	4/4	<i>Online class: view pre-recorded lecture &amp; complete quiz on Blackboard</i>	
<b>12</b>	Thurs	4/11	<b>E X A M 2 (first half)</b> Asia (second half)	
<b>13</b>	Thurs	4/18	Asia Latin America	Homework Assignment 4
<b>14</b>	Thurs	4/25	Latin America Exam Review	
<b>15</b>	Thurs	5/2	<b>E X A M 3</b>	