

GGG 301 – Section 001: Political Geography

Distance Education Course with Synchronous Session(s)

Professor: Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Contact: crosenfe@gmu.edu

Drop in Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 2:30-3:30pm by zoom; email for appt. outside office hours

<https://gmu.zoom.us/j/9516630401?pwd=TjFkVitwTFZvK0lORkdoU3RqcWlkZz09>

COURSE DELIVERY

Fully remote with one synchronous session per week and remaining content accessible asynchronously on Blackboard (BB), available at mymasonportal.gmu.edu. Participation in synchronous sessions is expected and contributions during session are graded; sessions will be recorded and made available for future viewing for people with technical difficulties. Synchronous sessions held via zoom (see zoom link in Weekly Lesson folders on BB). If there is an issue with zoom, synchronous sessions held via the Course Room within BB Collaborate Ultra.

***NOTE:** Exams are open resource, meaning you can use resources on the BB site, books, and notes to help you complete them, but you must abide by the GMU Honor Code by completing them individually without collaborating with anyone. See the Academic Integrity section.

COURSE SCHEDULE

See BB under Syllabus & Schedule.

REQUIRED TEXT

This course does not have a textbook. All readings are free and available on Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the subfield of human geography called political geography. Subtopics surveyed include traditional areas of focus for the subfield, including electoral geography and state formation, in addition to themes that political geography has taken up since its foundation, including social movements, environmental injustice, etc. Theory foundational to political geography in addition to an array of other social sciences will be discussed alongside historical and contemporary case studies. Special attention is paid to the unevenness of power at various scales as expressed through Politics/politics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Chart history of subfield and future directions
2. Describe how power works and is expressed through Politics/politics
3. Apply theoretical concepts to current events
4. Explain how P/political processes affect people, especially marginalized groups
5. Navigate a scholarly journal article

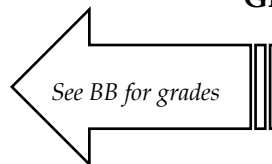
EXPECTATIONS OF BEING AN ONLINE STUDENT WITH SYNCHRONOUS SESSION(S)

- **CHECK AND READ YOUR MASON EMAIL DAILY.** Not reading email during an online course is equivalent to not showing up for class and missing important announcements. The Announcements tab on BB has a record of all email communication.
- **ATTEND THE SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS.** Show up on time and stay the entire time, making substantive contributions verbally and in the chat/message window.

- **REACH OUT IF YOU ARE STUCK.** If you don't let me know you are struggling, I cannot assist. ****If you encounter any accessibility concerns or have accommodations that I need to know about, please get in touch with me promptly****
- **STAY ORGANIZED AND BE METHODICAL.** It is up to you to work through all the learning modules and assessments located in each **Weekly Lessons folder** on BB.
- **SHOW RESPECT** for your classmates and myself when interacting virtually; I will do the same.

GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

Talking Badges.....	150 pts, 15%
StoryMap Project.....	200 pts, 20%
Reading Responses.....	300 pts, 30%
Exams.....	350 pts, 35%



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 BB. **Contact the professor within 48 hours of the grade being posted** to discuss if you feel there is an issue.

TALKING BADGES (150 pts, 15%)

Throughout the semester, you must acquire 6 Talking Badges (there are 9 opportunities to acquire Talking Badges), each worth 25 points. You can acquire a Talking Badge by:

- 1) Substantively participating (verbally and/or through the chat/message window) in a synchronous session during Weeks 2-4, 6, 8-10, 12-13, 15. Check BB grades after the synchronous session to see if you earned points for your contribution or not. If you did not, see option 2 below. **NOTE: given the size of the class, I will likely not be able to call on everyone who has something to contribute, so you may have to take option 2 at times even if you attend the live session.*

OR

- 2) Writing a paragraph (minimum 150 words) reflection on a current event and connecting and relating it with the module/topic of the week, incorporating 5 **BOLDED** and **UPPERCASE** course terms, and posting it to the relevant Talking Badges discussion board (you do not need to reply to others' posts). **Option 2 is due by 11:59 pm EST on the Sunday directly following the synchronous session.**

You can only get credit for either option 1 or 2 in any given week, so if you complete both, you will not get credit for 2 talking badges.

STORY MAP PROJECT (200 pts, 20%)

You will use the ArcGIS Story Map narrative storytelling platform to complete a project about a political geography topic of your choosing, with approval. You do NOT need to have any technical background to complete this. A tutorial will be given in class and additional support provided as needed. Additional details will be provided on BB and in class. You may work individually or with a partner; if working with a partner, each student receives the exact same grade.

READING RESPONSES (300 pts, 30%)

You must complete 5 Reading Responses (RR) (there are 10 opportunities to complete responses), which are one full page double spaced (300 words) where you summarize the key content and

arguments of one scholarly readings assigned for the week. Each response should address the key claims made by the author and make connections to other readings, classroom discussions, course topics, and outside events when possible. You must include page numbers when quoting directly, but you do NOT need to include a works cited page. A short overview of the reading and key issues to look out for will be provided in class prior to the reading response due date.

At least 1 RR must be completed prior to Exam 1; at least 1 RR must be completed between Exam 1 and Exam 2; and at least 1 RR must be completed after Exam 2.

ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES

All assignments must be submitted on BB. For assignments that don't prompt you to enter information directly into BB (like a quiz or survey form) or a BB text box, save assignments as word documents and upload to BB.

You are responsible for proper and timely submission. If you have a technical issue and cannot submit via BB, you **MUST** email a copy of the assignment to the professor **before** it is due in order to receive credit. Please avoid having to do this by submitting to BB before the last minute.

For RR, 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 view the SafeAssign report and make corrections, as plagiarism is treated seriously in compliance with university policy (see Academic Integrity section).

EXAMS (350 pts collectively, 35%)

There are 2 exams over the course of the semester, which are open-resource, but are to be completed individually. Exams may be a mix of multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. Exam 1 is worth 15% of your grade and Exam 2 is worth 20%, since it has a portion of cumulative content recycled/expanded from and/or related to Exam 1.

LATE WORK POLICY

At the start of the semester you have **2 late work tokens**. Late work tokens can be used on the following: talking badges option 2, StoryMap project, reading responses, and exams.

Using your late tokens enables you to turn in 2 eligible items up to 48 hours past the original due date without penalty. When using a late token, you do NOT need to email the professor in advance; simply turn in/complete your item on BB as usual and the professor will see it was turned in/completed late and record your use of the late token(s) and grade the item(s) accordingly.

Example:

If a homework assignment is due to BB on Thursday at 10:30 am and:

- You turn it in on Thursday at 12:47 pm, I will mark down that you used a late token; no penalty
- You turn it in on Saturday 9:46 am, I will mark down that you used a late token; no penalty
- You turn it in on Saturday 7:13 pm, you will not receive any credit for the item since it was turned in past the 48 hour extension that the late token offers

If you need an extension due to extenuating circumstances that are recognized by the university, it is your responsibility to contact the professor by email to inquire about an extension *prior to the original due date; this does not guarantee an extension.*

If you have one late token left at the end of the semester, you will receive 5 points as extra credit; if you have both late tokens left at the end of the semester, you will receive 10 points extra credit (that's one full percentage point).

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 me from a non-GMU email account, I will either not respond or I will respond letting you know to use your GMU email. I reply to all emails within 24 hours. **IT IS ESPECIALLY ESSENTIAL FOR AN ONLINE COURSE THAT YOU CHECK YOUR GMU EMAIL DAILY, PREFERABLY MULTIPLE TIMES A DAY. I PRESUME THAT ALL EMAILS I SEND ARE READ AND COMPREHENDED IN THEIR ENTIRETY.**

Please include these few basic elements in any and all email correspondence so I can quickly address your concern:

- Subject Line: Course # **AND** Section # (example: GGS 301 Sec 001)
- Quick salutation (example: Hi Dr. Rosenfeld)
- Body that clearly explains the question or problem you have
- Closing with first **AND** last name

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You need reliable access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. You need speakers or headphones to hear recorded content; transcripts/subtitles are also available. You need a working BB account, GMU email account, access to Microsoft Word, and a Zoom account. **Download zoom here:** <https://its.gmu.edu/service/zoom/>. If you have trouble viewing any content, please try viewing it on an alternative web browser. You may need to install Flash Player, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and Windows Media Player. Consult with IT Services for information about free downloads: <https://its.gmu.edu/find-a-service/>.

CAMPUS RESOURCES ***Resources are largely virtual for Fall 2020**

COVID-19 Resources: ww2.gmu.edu/coronavirus

Writing Resources: writingcenter.gmu.edu

Tutoring: https://ds.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Support_Tutoring-Services-Flyer_ATI.pdf

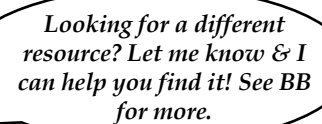
Disability Services: If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance, you should: 1) Make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Services--SUB I, suite 2500, 703-993-2474, ds.gmu.edu and 2) Discuss your accommodation needs with the professor.

Library Study Rooms: library.gmu.edu/use/study-rooms

ITS Support Center: 703-993-8870

Student Technology Assistance & Resource Center (STAR): 703-993-8990, 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



Looking for a different resource? Let me know & I can help you find it! See BB 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

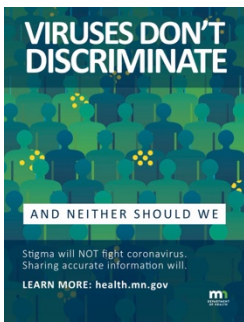
Title IX: diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct, 703-993-8730, 373 Aquia Building

Food Pantry: Access food and household items: SUB I, suite 3011, pantry@gmu.edu

Parents & Expecting Students: masonfamily.gmu.edu/students-parents/

TITLE IX

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993- 8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.



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 with me about questions *prior* to turning in assignments. See also [Assignment Procedures](#).

*****FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PROPER **NETIQUETTE** IN OUR ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT YOUR GRADE*****

*****This syllabus is subject to change but if changes are made, aside from slight weekly content adjustments, they will be clearly communicated via BB*****