

**Meeting Time:** Tuesdays & Thursdays: – 1:30 – 2:45 pm  
**Room:** Exploratory Hall 2310  
**Credit Hours:** 3

---

**FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Name : Maction Komwa, PhD  
Room : 2414 Exploratory Hall  
Office Hours: MW – 10:30 am – Noon | Thursdays – 11:00 -Noon (*If these times are not convenient, please feel free to make an appointment*)  
Email : mkomwa@gmu.edu  
Phone : 703-993-5646

---

**GTA Contact Information**

Colin Flynn Email: [cflynn8@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:cflynn8@masonlive.gmu.edu) Office: Exploratory Hall GTA Office Space #1102E

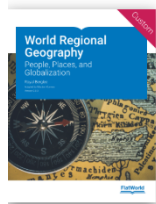
**Learning Assistant Contact Information**

Caleb Faber Email: [cfaber2@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:cfaber2@masonlive.gmu.edu) | Office: GGS Cubicle - 2400 D Exploratory Hall

---

**READING MATERIAL**

The following books and materials are required & recommended:



**World Regional Geography: People,  
Places, and Globalization, v. 2.0.3**

By: Royal Berglee  
Published: August 2019  
Discipline: Geography Textbooks  
ISBN: 978-1-4533-3376-1  
Customized by: Maction Komwa

**Recommended**

*Hammond Comparative World Atlas* (2001) or new version.

You will need to use an atlas in this course during class discussion and mapping assignments.

Available at the George Mason University (GMU) Bookstore or any other sources. You can also purchase the textbook directly from the publisher. Follow this link: <https://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/2590110>

Additional reading assignments from other sources will be posted on the **Blackboard** course website, at <http://mymason.gmu.edu>. It is your responsibility to check the course website **regularly**.

**About This Course**

Patterns, problems, and prospects of the world's principal human-geographic regions. Emphasizes areal differentiation and role of geographic differences in interpreting current world scene.

**Course Objectives:**

This course is a global learning course. Upon course completion, a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a foundational knowledge of the world's physical geographic features and how they relate to each other.

- Learn about the geographical tools and data sources geographers use to study the Earth's surface.
- Demonstrate the interconnectedness between humans and their environment.
- Distinguish between the different types of regional distinctions recognized in geography.
- Understand the spatial nature of geography and how each place or region is examined, analyzed and compared with other places or regions.
- Understand the relationship and importance of people and places.

Throughout the semester, as we discuss on the suggested topics listed in the syllabus notice that each region is unique and possesses a special combination of historical, cultural, environmental, economic, and organizational qualities.

## Assignments and Grading

The components of your assignments and grade are listed in the table below:

Description	% grade
<b>Map Exercises</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will build your map literacy and ability to analyze spatial information through these assignments. Knowing geographical location, place, regions, movement of objects from one location to another, etc. are part of the geography themes that you will learn from these activities.</li> <li>• You will then be able to understand the spatial nature of geography and how each place, or region is examined, analyzed and compared with other places or regions. We will be using physical maps, online map resources such as Google Maps</li> <li>• Each map quiz will consist of multiple choice and fill-in questions.</li> </ul>	20%
<b>Examination</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be three non-cumulative, in-class <i>closed-book</i> examinations (<i>Exam I, Mid-Term and a final examination</i>)</li> <li>• We'll take some time to talk about study strategies and answer any possible review questions you may have a week before the exam. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Each exam will contain objective (multiple-choice), matching, fill-in the blanks questions. The questions will be based both on the reading and on material we have covered in class, so be prepared!</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<i>Exam I</i>	15%
<i>Mid-Term Exam</i>	20%
<i>Final Exam</i>	30%
<b>Quizzes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quizzes will be <b>administered</b> both online through the Blackboard or in-class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ They are designed to make sure that you have read and understood the readings, practice and prepare you for exams, and help you revise the key points discussed in class or through the readings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	10%
<b>In-class activities, group discussion and Participation</b> Class assignments such as group discussions are designed to assess your understanding of the readings and your ability to apply course concepts learned in class.	5%

**Late assignments will be penalized at 5 points per day.** Activities more than 4 days late automatically receive zero points. FYI - if you submit your assignment past the deadline even if it is 1 minute late (*i.e. 12 midnight instead of 11:59 pm*), I will consider that as late submission, so you should plan your time accordingly.

- *There will be no make-up on Quizzes and Exams unless accompanied by compelling evidence or in the case of **University-excused absences**.*

## ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES

All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard unless I instruct otherwise. 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 on their due date.

## Grading Scale

What is the difference between a “B” and an “A”? The following will be your Letter Grade and Percentages to determine your final grade for this course.

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A+	98 -100%	B+	87 – 89%	C+	78 – 79%	F	below 60%
A	93 -97%	B	83 – 86%	C	70 – 77%		
A-	90 -92%	B-	80 – 82%	D	60 – 69%		

## Course policies/My Expectations:

This class will consist of presentations, discussions, supplemented by map exercises. It is important to come prepared to class, which means:

1. Students are expected to attend (on time) each class and be engaged when they are in class. The class will be interactive if all of us will be involved in discussing and learning the material.
2. Taking good quality notes in class
3. Turning in all assignments on time.
4. For any planned absence, please inform the instructor in advance. It will be your responsibility to track down any missed material, assignments, etc. Any missed work without any supporting evidence will not be accepted.
5. Should circumstances arise that make you late, do not disrupt the class as you enter, take the first available seat and do not walk across the room.
6. In the event of any class cancellation, including inclement weather (e.g. snow), the class will resume where we left off, adjustments, if necessary, will be made later.
7. All students should be respectful to all other students in class or during debate or class discussion forum and simulation activities. It is common knowledge to say that people have different opinions, values and concerns during any assigned debate/discussion, therefore, it is important to maintain respect during class debated and discussion.
8. You should submit your own work in all your written assignments unless otherwise stated like in group activities or group project.
9. The use of electronic devices is permitted in class for note-taking and to access course materials. If the use of any electronic device proves to be a distraction to you or others (including myself), 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 UNLESS otherwise stated by the instructor. Silence your cellphones when the class is in session! If for some reasons you want to use your phone on emergence, you have to room quietly and take the phone outside classroom. Please you can also alert me if you are expecting an important phone call.*

10. What do we do about potential disruptions” in class?

## What you can expect from me:

- There will be fair assessment of student work and treat each member of our class with respect.
- Will return your work on time
- Clear communicate of course information
- Available for any additional assistance during my office hours or any other arranged times and respond to your emails on time.

**Academic Honesty:** George Mason University operates under an honor system, which is published in the University Catalog and deals specifically with cheating, attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Please familiarize yourself with the honor code, especially the statement on plagiarism (<http://www.gmu.edu/org/honorcouncil/guidelines.htm>).

Additionally, note the following:

- *You can discuss ideas on how to solve a problem in class or outside classroom, however, you should **NEVER**:*
- *submit an assignment that you didn't write or finish yourself.*
- *submit assignment that you have used in another class – your assignment should be original*
- *cheat on an exam*

## University Services

George Mason University has a number of academic support and other resources to facilitate your success. Some of these resources are presented below:

- i. Counseling and Psychological Services [<http://caps.gmu.edu/>]
- ii. University Career Services [<http://careers.gmu.edu/>]
- iii. 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)
- iv. University Catalog: <http://catalog.gmu.edu/>
- v. University Policies: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>
- vi. Library Study Rooms: [library.gmu.edu/use/study-rooms](http://library.gmu.edu/use/study-rooms)
- vii. 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)
- viii. Student Support & Advocacy Center: Assistance regarding healthy lifestyle and educational choices: SUB I, suite 3200, 703-993-3686, [ssac.gmu.edu](http://ssac.gmu.edu)
- ix. Food Pantry: Access food and household items: SUB I, suite 3011, [pantry@gmu.edu](mailto:pantry@gmu.edu)

## Access to the GIS LAB

You will have access to the GIS Student Computer Lab located in the 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.

### *Point of contact for class 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. If you miss class, you are encouraged to visit your LA to get caught up to speed.

## Students with Disabilities

Students with documented and qualifying learning, physical and psychological disabilities should contact the Disability Services (ODC), which arranges for reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and University policies. In order to arrange accommodations in each course, the student must present his/her professors with a letter from the ODC outlining the recommended accommodations at the beginning of the semester. Disability Services (ODC) website: [ds.gmu.edu](http://ds.gmu.edu) - SUB I, Room 2500. Telephone: (703) 993-2474.

**Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking**

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 (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing [cde@gmu.edu](mailto:cde@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.

**Email Policy**

GMU faculty and staff may only correspond with students through the students' GMU assigned email accounts. Emails sent from other accounts will not necessarily be answered. Course information will be shared via email. Please notify me if you would like your email to remain private and not shared with your classmates. *Gmail or Yahoo* accounts etc. will not be acknowledged.

## Tentative Schedule & Readings

Date	Lecture and Lab Topics	Readings
8/27	Introductions and Course Overview	None
8/29	Introduction to the World	Chapter 1
9/3	World Regions in Global Context	Chapter 1
9/5	World Regions in Global Context	Chapter 1   <b>Quiz 1</b>
9/10	Europe	<b>Map Exercise 1</b>   Chapter 2
9/12	Europe	Chapter 2
9/17	Europe	Chapter 2
9/19	North America	<b>Map Exercise 2</b>   Chapter 4
9/24	North America	<b>Quiz 2</b> Chapter 4
9/26	<b>EXAM I</b>	
10/1	Middle America	Chapter 5
10/3	Middle America	Chapter 5   <b>Map Exercise 3</b>
10/8	South America	Chapter 6
10/10	<b>MID-TERM</b>	
10/15	<i>Fall Break (Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)</i>	
10/17	South America	<b>Quiz 3</b>   Chapter 6
10/22	Sub-Saharan Africa	<b>Map Exercise 4</b> / Chapter 7
10/29	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 7
10/31	North Africa and Southwest Asia	Chapter 8
11/5	North Africa and Southwest Asia	<b>Quiz 4</b>   Chapter 8
11/7	North Africa and Southwest Asia	<b>Map Exercise 5</b> / Chapter 8
11/12	South Asia	Chapter 9
11/14	South Asia	Chapter 9
11/19	South East Asia	<b>Quiz 5</b>   Chapter 11
11/21	South East Asia	Chapter 11
11/26	Australia and New Zealand	Chapter 12   <b>Map Exercise 6</b>
11/27	<b>Thanksgiving Recess (No classes)</b>	
12/3	Australia and New Zealand	<b>Quiz 6</b>   Chapter 12
12/5	The Pacific and Antarctica	Chapter 13
12/10	<i>Reading Day</i>	
<b>12/17</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>1:30 pm – 4:15 pm</b>

The course instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to the course content and office hours during the term. If these changes are made, they will be immediately notified to students through the blackboard explaining the nature of the change. All assignments and due dates can be accessed through the Blackboard – “Due Dates at a-glance”

Class Assignments and Group Discussion will be administered in class from time to time. Most of these activities will not be announced (pop-up activities). There are no make-up for these assignment. It is your responsibility to attend class.