

GGG 101: Major World Regions

Course Syllabus, Summer 2019, 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR

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COURSE BASICS

Meeting times: MTWR 10:30am – 12:35pm
Location: Art and Design Building 2003
Web location: Blackboard (courses.gmu.edu)
Office hours: By appt.

TEXTS

Boyer, John. 2017. *The Plaid Avenger's World: A Populist Apocalypse Edition*. 9th Edition. Kendall Hunt Publishing. ISBN: 1524922536

OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

This course is designed as an introduction to the discipline of geography while providing the student an overview of the world's major regions as defined by their physical and cultural characteristics. It is also intended to present critical geographic concepts associated with applying a spatial perspective to understanding the world.

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. Emphasis will be made on areal differentiation and the role geographic differences play in the interpretation of the current world scene. 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course fulfills the Mason Core requirement in **Global Understanding**. The intention is for you to be capable of the following at the end of this course:

1. Identify the distribution of patterns of human and physical geographical features across the globe.
2. Describe world regions based on their physical and cultural traits in the context of modern events.
3. Explain similarities and differences among world regions across multiple scales.
4. Explain the interconnectedness, difference, and diversity of a global society that are manifested in the regions of the world.
5. Understand how to profile a place, analyze problems, and read and interpret information on maps, charts, and photos.

STRUCTURE & EXPECTATIONS

GGG 101 is structured as a lecture-and-exam course. Class time will be spent largely presenting and discussing elements of regions around the world. Lectures will be accompanied by the use of electronic slides, maps, and photographs. Lectures are posted after class as PDF documents. Several homework assignments supplement the presented material and are intended to increase the interaction with the course material.

All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard. While unlimited submissions are permitted in Blackboard, only the most recent submission will be graded. Submissions are due 15 minutes before the start of class unless noted otherwise. No late work will be accepted without a documented excuse. **NO TEST WILL BE**

HANDED OUT AFTER THE FIRST PERSON TO FINISH HAS TURNED IN THEIR EXAM.

You are expected to be respectful of your peers and your instructor in both words and actions. This ranges from classroom interactions to the simple act of showing up to class on time. You are expected to be respectful of your peers and your instructor and to not engage in activities that are unrelated to 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, you will be asked to cease use of the device. 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.

Modifications to class due to closures will be announced via Blackboard. **Assignments due on a closure or delay date are STILL due on that day** unless otherwise specified.

My last name is pronounced LES-LEE. My preference is that you address me as “Professor,” “Professor Leslie” or “Dr. Leslie.” If there is a specific way that you would like me to address you—including certain pronouns—please notify me as soon as possible.

GRADING SCHEMA

Assessment	% (of final grade)	Assessment	% (of final grade)
HW 1	6%	HW 4	6%
HW 2	6%	Exam 1	38%
HW 3	6%	Exam 2	38%

Grades generally follow 90/80/70 with plus/minus being within 3 percent of the cutoffs. I reserve the right to alter the exact boundaries at the end of the semester.

If you are not satisfied with your progress during the semester, please see me as early as possible; do not wait until the end of the semester to address these concerns.

I **do not** provide review sheets for exams. Exams will be a mix of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and free response.

If extra credit opportunities arise throughout the course of the semester, they will be announced in class and appear in the Extra Credit Opportunities folder on Blackboard. These opportunities are rare and may not happen.

GGG COMPUTER LAB ASSISTANCE

All students in GGS courses should receive “swipe” access (using your Student ID) to the GGS Student Computer Lab (Room 2102, Exploratory Hall) upon registering for the course. If you are having problems with door access, please e-mail GGS administrator Sam Cooke (scooke4@gmu.edu) with SWIPE ACCESS in the subject line of your email.

If you experience problems with the computers (e.g., software or hardware issues) in the GGS Student Computer Lab, please email College of Science IT (cosit@gmu.edu) for technical assistance.

Please copy Dr. Leslie on any e-mail correspondence to outside parties if it is related to this course.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information. If you from a non-GMU

email account, you will receive a response telling you to use your GMU email. If you send an email outside of regular business hours, you may not get a response until the next working day.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification.

Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be properly in-text cited using an appropriate format; a simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism and familiarize yourself with the Honor Code.

No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct, and ignorance is not an excuse. I recommend a failure in the course for all Honor Code referrals. The official GMU policies are available from the Office of Academic Integrity: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/>.

DIVERSITY

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, 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 is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but 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. Notably, individuals are asked not to speak for the experience of others, nor to ask others to account for an entire demographic of which they may belong.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

OTHER GMU RESOURCES

The Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

University Libraries, Ask a Librarian: <http://library.gmu.edu/ask>

Counseling and Psychological Services: <http://caps.gmu.edu>

University Catalog: <http://catalog.gmu.edu>

University Policies: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>

OUTLINE & TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Date	Lecture Topic	Due
24-Jun	Intro / Spatial Thinking / Maps / Populism (CH 1)	
25-Jun	Population, Anglo America (CH 2, 7)	
26-Jun	Political Geography, Oceania (CH3, 12)	
27-Jun	Economic Geography (CH4)	
1-Jul	Western Europe, Eastern Europe (CH 8, 9)	HW 1 Due
2-Jul	Physical Geography	
3-Jul	Development and Globalization (CH 5)	
8-Jul	Russia (CH10)	HW 2, Movie Selection Due
9-Jul	[Spillover Time]	
10-Jul	Midterm Exam	
11-Jul	No Class - Go Watch Your Movie!	
15-Jul	Urbanization, Latin American (CH 13)	HW 3 Due
16-Jul	Physical Geography II, Central America (CH 15)	
17-Jul	Caribbean, South America (CH 16, 17)	
18-Jul	Middle East and N Africa, Sub Saharan Africa (CH 18, 20)	
22-Jul	S Asia, C Asia (CH 21, 22)	HW 4 Due
23-Jul	E Asia, SE Asia (23, 24)	
24-Jul	Populism, Conflict, and Closing (25, 26, 27)	
25-Jul	[Spillover Time]	
26-Jul	Final Exam	