**GGS 540: Health Geography**

**Course Syllabus, Fall 2017, 3 Credits**

**INSTRUCTOR COURSE BASICS**

Name: Dr. Donglian Sun

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Office hours: Thursday 3:00-5.00 pm

Meeting times: Every Monday, 07:20 pm-10:00 pm

Location: 2310 Exploratory Hall

Web location: Blackboard

**REQUIRED TEXT**

[Michael Emch](https://www.guilford.com/author/Michael-Emch), [Elisabeth Dowling Root](https://www.guilford.com/author/Elisabeth-Dowling-Root), and [Margaret Carrel](https://www.guilford.com/author/Margaret-Carrel), 2017. Health and Medical Geography (Fourth Edition). Guilford Press,

New York. ISBN: 9781462520060

**OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES**

GGS 590 surveys environmental impacts on health, and encompasses a broad range oftopics regarding human and environmental health. At its core, health geography is the study of humanenvironmentinteractions and the influence of these interactions on population health – i.e., how peopleinteract with their physical and social environment to promote health and wellbeing or to increase theirvulnerability to disease and/or illness. The approach taken in this course will focus on examining healthrelatedissues (e.g., disease, illness, health care access, nutrition) from the perspective of populations.Major health issues and health care systems from around the world will be evaluated and discussed.The course covers three major integrated approaches to health geographic research: ecological(relationships between people and their environment), social (human behavior), and spatial (mappingand spatial analysis).

**ASSIGNMENTS & EXPECTATIONS**

All assignments will be available on Blackboard. Assignments must be submitted electronically through Blackboardprior to the due date/time. All students are expected to not only attend class, but also be active participants. Healthy and constructive discussion of the course material are encouraged.

**GRADING POLICY**

**Assessment Points %** (of final grade)

Assignments 35%

Attendance 10%

Midterm Exam20%

Final Project35%

**The final grade is computed out of 100 points using the following letter mapping:**

**100-96 A+; 95-93 A; 92-90 A-;**

**89-87 B+; 86-83 B; 82-80 B-;**

**79-77 C+; 76-73 C; 72-70 C-;**

**69-60 D; < 59 F**

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Lecture I**

Introduction, Questions in Health Geography, Defining Health (Ch1)

Chapter 1

**Lecture II**

Ecology of Health and Disease (Ch2)

Chapter 2

**Lecture III**

Expanding Disease Ecology (Ch2)

Chapter 3

**Lecture IV**

Transitions and Development (Ch3)

Chapter 4

**Lecture V**

Maps and Spatial Analysis (Ch9, Ch10)

Chapter 5

**Lecture VI**

Disease Diffusion (Ch3)

Chapter 6

**Lecture VII**

Emerging Infectious Diseases and Landscape Genetics (Ch3)

Chapter 7

**Lecture VIII**

Food, Diet, and the Nutrition Transition (Ch6)

Chapter 8

Midterm

**Lecture IX**

Neighborhoods and Health

Chapter 9

**Lecture X**

Urban Health

Chapter 10

**Lecture XI**

Environment and Health (Ch4, Ch5)

Chapter 11

**Lecture XII**

Climate and Health

Chapter 12

**Lecture XIII**

**Health Care and Final Thoughts (Ch8)**

**Chapter 13**

**Lecture XIV**

Final Project Presentation

**GGS COMPUTER LAB ACCESS**

All GGS students should receive “swipe” access (using your Student ID) to the GGS Student Computer Lab (Room2102, Exploratory Hall) upon registering for the course. If you experience problems accessing the lab, please see Samantha Cooke in the Main GGS Office (2400, Exploratory Hall).

**GGS COMPUTER LAB ASSISTANCE**

If you experience problems with the computers (e.g., software or hardware issues) in the GGS Student ComputerLab (Room 2102, Exploratory Hall), please email our student lab assistants, Hong Vuong (hvuong2@gmu.edu) andIan McVey (imcvey@gmu.edu) for technical assistance.

**GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS**

Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messagesrelated to this class. See http://masonlive.gmu.edu for more information.

**OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES**

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

**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