

GGG 101- Section DL6: Major World Regions

Distance Education Course – Spring 2021

Professor: Sarah Jones

Email: sjones63@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1 – 2 pm via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra; or by appointment

COURSE DELIVERY

This course is a mix of asynchronous and synchronous online sessions. A learning module will be released each week on Monday and should be completed by the following Sunday (11:59pm Eastern time). Everything within the module should be completed by the following Sunday, unless otherwise noted. Each week there will be *optional* office hours for us to interact as needed, using BB Collaborate Ultra. Course content is available via BB, at mymasonportal.gmu.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE

See BB under Syllabus & Schedule.

RECOMMENDED TEXT ***FREE & online (click: read book)**

Finlayson, Caitlin. World Regional Geography: <https://worldgeo.pressbooks.com/>

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 shape. 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.

GGG 101 SATISFIES THE MASON CORE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING REQUIREMENT.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Using 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. Demonstrate the development of intercultural competencies
4. Describe world regions based on physical, cultural, and economic traits
5. Explain similarities, differences, and interdependencies among world regions across multiple scales
6. Identify the distribution of patterns of human and physical geographical features across the globe and describe the geographical processes that explain said patterns
7. Demonstrate understanding of how the patterns and processes of globalization make visible the interconnections and differences among and within contemporary global societies
8. Identify and articulate one's own values and how those values influence their interactions and relationships with others, both locally and globally

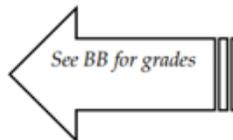
9. Explore individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical, practical, or creative responses to problems or issues, using resources appropriate to the field
10. Get curious about the world and have the skills and confidence to explore

EXPECTATIONS OF BEING AN ONLINE STUDENT

- **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 table on BB has a record of all course announcements.*
- **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 METHODOLICAL.** It is up to you to work through all the information located in each **Weekly Module** on Blackboard and to make sure everything is submitted on time.
- **SHOW RESPECT** for your classmates and myself when interacting virtually; I will do the same. *Keep in mind that we are all communicating virtually and without visual cues, like what would be seen in face-to-face interactions, it is very easy to misinterpret how something is being 'typed' when that never is the case.*

GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

Discussions (3).....150 pts
 Assignments (2).....250 pts
 Map Quizzes (3).....100 pts
 Exams (3).....500 pts



GRADE CUTOFFS BY POINTS

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

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. All assignments will be graded within a week and a half of the due date, unless otherwise noted due to extenuating circumstances on my end.

DISCUSSIONS (100 pts, 10%)

There are 3 discussions to be completed individually; see BB for prompts and rubric. You **MUST** make an initial post to the discussion board and respond to the posts of **two (2) classmates** for each discussion. The replies **MUST** consist of more than a few sentences where you reply with meaningful comments, not just supporting the individual's post (Ex: DON'T JUST SAY "I completely understand what you are saying. I can't imagine going through that." - or etc...). Feel free to ask people questions regarding their post or share your own experience with something related to what they post about! **DO NOT submit your discussion post as a file.** It should be typed directly in the textbox. Each discussion is worth 50 points. Your initial post is worth 20 pts and then 15 points for each response to classmates.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (300 pts collectively, 30%)

There are 2 homework assignments to be completed individually; see BB for specific directions and rubrics. Points vary by assignment. See Assignment Procedures.

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. It is your responsibility to check that the assignment displays properly when uploaded. I grade how it appears on Blackboard, including blank documents.

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.

MAP QUIZZES (100 pts, 10%)

There are 3 map quizzes, which are open-resource but are to be completed individually. You will view blank maps with countries labeled by number and enter corresponding country names into the quiz. Each map quiz increases in geographic scope. The first is worth 20 points, the others, 40 points each. All Map quizzes will be available on Fridays at 12:01am until Sunday at 11:59pm.

EXAMS (500 pts collectively, 50%)

There are 3 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, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. ~80% of exam content pertains to content covered since the last exam and ~20% of exam content pertains to cumulative content, meaning content covered prior to the previous exam(s). Each content is derived from all learning materials pertaining to a week, including readings, videos, lecture recordings, links, assignments, discussions, etc; therefore, you should take the exam after engaging with all of the learning materials. All Exams will be available on Fridays at 12:01am until Sunday at 11:59pm.

***Note:** Exams and quizzes 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.

LATE WORK POLICY

At the start of the semester you have **2 late work tokens**. **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. For discussions, you may use the late token on the initial post and/or the reply/replies (if you submit your initial post on time but fail to complete the required response(s)).

Example:

If a homework assignment is due to BB on Sunday at 11:59 pm and:

- You turn it in on Monday at 12:03 am, I will mark down that you used a late token; no penalty
- You turn it in on Tuesday 10:46 am, I will mark down that you used a late token; no penalty
- You turn it in on Wednesday 7:13 am, 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). The 10 late token points will automatically be included in your Bb grades after the first week of classes. As you use late tokens, they will be deducted from the already posted 10 points – this way you will be able to keep track of how many tokens you have left.

OFFICE HOURS/BLACKBOARD COLLABORATIVE ULTRA

Blackboard Collaborative Ultra will be used weekly for my online office hours that are listed above. I, every week will create a new session that will act as my office hours. Students can feel free to ask questions or do anything that one would normally do during face-to-face office hours. *If you feel more comfortable with it being private, just let me know and we can schedule a separate meeting time outside of the classes designated hour.* These one hour sessions will **NOT** be lectures, so there is no need to join the session if you don't need too. In fact, I reply to emails so quickly, that more than likely you won't have to attend any virtual office hours, but it's available if needed.

To access, go to the course in BB, and in the Table of Contents section, click 'Collaborate Ultra.' There is an option to use Audio, Camera, and/or type (like a chat). You do not need to set up your camera unless you want too (mine won't be unless it's needed). Most sessions should take place using the chat but sometimes it may be easier for me to explain something using my microphone or sharing my computer screen.

EMAIL POLICY

In compliance with the 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 **Monday – Friday**. Communication during the weekend or on University holidays is left up to the discretion of the instructor. Some weekends I may be able to check my email, but other times I won't. So do not rely on me responding to any emails over the weekend associated with an assignment due that Sunday. **IT IS ESPECIALLY ESSENTIAL FOR AN ONLINE COURSE THAT YOU CHECK YOUR GMU EMAIL DAILY (M-F), 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 correspondences so I can quickly address your concern:

Subject Line: Course # AND Section # (example: GGS 101 Sec DL1)

Quick salutation (example: Hi Professor Jones; Hi Sarah)

Body that clearly explains the question or problem you have

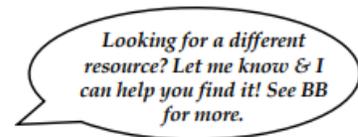
Closing with first AND last name

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, and access to Microsoft Word. 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/finda-service/>.

COURSE MATERIALS & STUDENT PRIVACY & RIGHTS

All course materials, including video recordings/conference meetings, posted to BB or other course site are private to this class; by federal law, any materials that identify specific students (via their name, voice, or image) must not be shared with anyone not enrolled in this course.



CAMPUS RESOURCES ****Resources are largely virtual for Spring 2021**

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

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

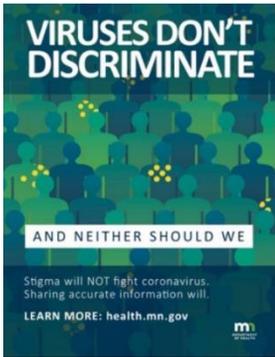
Title IX: diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct, 703-993-8730, 373 Aquia Building Food Pantry:

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 Looking for a different resource? Let me know & I can help you find it! See BB for more. 5 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. If you wish, please share your name and gender pronouns with the professor and how best to address you in class and via email. I use she/her for myself. Please consider updating your profile in PatriotWeb.

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.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

*******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****

COURSE SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise stated, **all assignments are due by the end of the week (SUNDAYS by 11:59pm EST)** in which they are assigned. For the purpose of this course, a week is defined as **beginning at 12:01am EST each Monday, and ending at 11:59pm EST on the following Sunday.**

Weeks	Week Opens (EST)	Week Closes (EST)	Modules	Due by Sunday 11:59 pm
Week 1	Monday 1/25 12:01 AM	Sunday 1/31 11:59 PM	Thinking Geographically & Geographic Tools; Anatomy of the Earth	
Week 2	Monday 2/1 12:01 AM	Sunday 2/7 11:59 PM	Development & Economy Population	Assignment 1: I Can Geography
Week 3	Monday 2/8 12:01 AM	Sunday 2/14 11:59 PM	Europe	
Week 4	Monday 2/15 12:01 AM	Sunday 2/21 11:59 PM	Russian Federation, Central Asia, & the Transcaucasus	Exam 1 Map Quiz 1
Week 5	Monday 2/22 12:01 AM	Sunday 2/28 11:59 PM	Arctic & Antarctica	Discussion: Scramble for the Arctic
Week 6	Monday 3/1 12:01 AM	Sunday 3/7 11:59 PM	US & Canada Oceania	
Week 7	Monday 3/8 12:01 AM	Sunday 3/14 11:59 PM	-----	-----
Week 8	Monday 3/15 12:01 AM	Sunday 3/21 11:59 PM	Africa	Discussion: Current Events
Week 9	Monday 3/22 12:01 AM	Sunday 3/28 11:59 PM	Africa	Exam 2 Map Quiz 2
Week 10	Monday 3/29 12:01 AM	Sunday 4/4 11:59 PM	Southwest Asia	
Week 11	Monday 4/5 12:01 AM	Sunday 4/11 11:59 PM	Asia	Discussion: Climate Change Town Hall
Week 12	Monday 4/12 12:01 AM	Sunday 4/18 11:59 PM	Asia	
Week 13	Monday 4/19 12:01 AM	Sunday 4/25 11:59 PM	Latin America	Assignment 2
Week 14	Monday 4/26 12:01 AM	Sunday 5/2 11:59 PM	Latin America	Exam 3 Map Quiz 3