

GGG 103_DL2: Human Geography

Distance Learning Course, Asynchronous Format

Professor: Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Contact: crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours: TW 3-4pm by zoom & by appt. <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/9516630401>

COURSE DELIVERY

Asynchronous online with some OPTIONAL synchronous sessions held via zoom (recorded and available for future viewing); if there is an issue with zoom, optional synchronous sessions held via the Course Room within BB Collaborate Ultra. Course content is available via BB, at mymasonportal.gmu.edu. **Check email prior to synchronous sessions for changes.**

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

Rosenfeld, Christine & Burtch, Nathan. Human Geography: <https://humangeog.pressbooks.com/>

LEARNING ASSISTANT(S)

This course has one or more Learning Assistants (LAs) who provide peer support. Email LA(s) for homework help and exam review questions. See BB for more.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the major branch of geography called human geography. The study of human geography investigates how people and human activities are connected to and interact with place, space, and landscape. Questions asked by human geographers include: How does place influence people? How do people influence place? What are the effects of global processes at the local level, or scale? How is human activity—agricultural practices, internet use, industrialization, etc.—spatially distributed? Why do certain patterns of human activity exist on the landscape in the way that they do? Human geographers are committed to understanding the spatial distribution of human activity and humans' relationships with place in order to identify, interrogate, and reduce social inequalities.

GGG 103 SATISFIES THE MASON CORE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REQUIREMENT.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

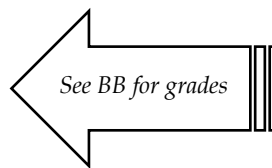
1. Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors
2. Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs
3. Use appropriate methods and resources to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles and theories in the analysis of significant human issues, past or present
4. Use geographic tools and data sources to interpret the distribution of spatial phenomena, especially the unequal distribution of phenomena
5. Explain how people are influenced by contextual factors and interact with their surrounding physical and socio-cultural environments and landscapes
6. Regarding the relationship between human activity and space, place, and landscape, ask and answer: Why this, here? Why that, there?
7. Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs

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 tab on Blackboard has a record of all email communication.
- **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 Blackboard.
- **SHOW RESPECT** for your classmates and myself when interacting virtually; I will do the same.

GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

Discussions (5)..... 150 pts, 15%
Assignments (5)..... 350 pts, 35%
Exams (3)..... 500 pts, 50%



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.

DISCUSSIONS (150 pts, 15%)

There are 5 discussions to be completed within assigned discussion groups; see BB for prompts and rubric. You must make an initial post and respond to 1 classmate.

ASSIGNMENTS (350 pts, 35%)

There are 5 homework assignments; see BB for specific directions and rubrics. Points per assignment vary. See Assignment Procedures for SafeAssign explanation.

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 writing-based assignments, you will have two submission opportunities so you can submit your work once and view the University's plagiarism checker SafeAssign report, make necessary corrections, and resubmit. The most recent submission is what will be graded. Plagiarism is treated seriously in compliance with university policy (see Academic Integrity).

EXAMS (500 pts, 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). Exam 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.

***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 in any way. See the Academic Integrity section.

LATE WORK POLICY

Each student starts with 2 late work tokens, which allow you to turn in a graded item up to 48 hours past the original due date without penalty. When using a late token, you do NOT need to email the professor nor LA in advance; simply turn in/complete your item on BB as usual. For discussions, you may use a late token on the initial post and/or the reply/replies.

Examples:

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

- You turn it in on Tues 10:46 am, I will mark down that you used a late token; no penalty
- You turn it in on Weds 7:13 am, no credit offered because turned in after 48 hr extension

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 do not use one or both late tokens, extra credit applied.

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 your LA(s) and I can quickly address your concern:

Subject Line: Course # **AND** Section # (example: GGS 103 Sec DL2)

Quick salutation (example: Hi Dr. Rosenfeld; example: Hi Noah)

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/>.

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 class. Please also familiarize yourself with your [student rights and responsibilities](#).

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/2hWjl0y

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

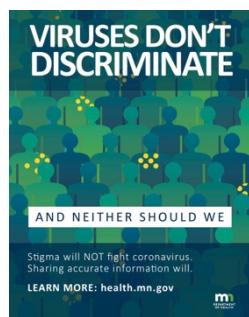
Parents & Expecting Students: masonfamily.gmu.edu/students-parents/

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

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 & ACCOMODATIONS



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 (see [religious holiday calendar](#)), 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.

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email:ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

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*****