***GGS101-Major World Regions***

***SYLLABUS***

**Course Information**

**Course Number:** GGS101

**Course Title:**  Major World Regions

**Term:** Fall 2021

**Class Meetings:** MW 12:30-1:15pm

**Location:** Blackboard & Zoom



**Professor Contact Information**

**Professor:** Piash Debnath, M.S.

**Email:** pdebnat2@gmu.edu

**Office Hours:** By Appointment/Zoom

**Course Description:**

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 Prerequisites:** None

**Required Textbooks (Available Free Online)**

Title: World Regional Geography

Author: Caitlin Finlayson

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/world-regional-geography>

**Grading Policy:**

Mid-Term Exam (1) 20 points 20%

Final Exam (1) 20 points 20%

HW Exercises (3) 4 points each 12%

Discussion Board (3) 5 points each 15%

Map Quizzes (8) each varies 6%

Final Project (1) 27 points 27%

Total Possible Points: 100 100%

**Grading Scale:**

1. 90 – 100%
2. 80 – 89%
3. 70 – 79%
4. 60 – 69%

**F-** 59 – 0%

**Course & Instructor Policies**

**Exams:** There will be a Midterm and Final exam consisting of multiple choice and/or short answers. Both are worth 20% of the total grade and will be open notes online on Blackboard

**HW Assignments:** There will be 3 HW assignments worth 4 points each. They will be due by 11:59pm Sundays. Submit as a word file.

**Map Quizzes**: There will be a map quiz almost every week that will consist of the region of the week. It will be short answer and/or multiple choice worth 6% total of the grade.

**Late Assignments:** Late Assignments are strictly NOT accepted unless there is **prior** approval. Please see announcements and class schedule for detailed due dates.

**Discussion Board:** The Discussion Board will take place on Blackboard in essay format. Each Discussion will be worth 5 points with a total of 3 discussions for the semester due on Blackboard by 11:59pm Sunday. 3 points will be towards the Discussion essay, 1 page minimum, double spaced. 2 points will be for directly replying to at least 2 peer’s essays. The replies need to be at least 4 sentences and directly quote or cite something from the peers’ essay. You can copy and paste directly to the discussion board or attach a word file.

**Final Project:** The Final Project will be worth 27 points total. The project will be an individual itinerary project. The topic country will be chosen by the student either in **Asia or Africa**. Further instruction will follow on Blackboard. 2 points will be dedicated to Final Project Step 1 and Step 2 which will be assigned early in the semester.

**Classroom Netiquette:**

It is expected that the online environmental is respectful and proper. Interactions with classmates online should be in appropriate manners. When emailing the professor there must be a greeting (e.g. Good afternoon Professor), a Subject for the email (e.g. Exercise 2 help), and a signature at the end (e.g. Best, Jane Doe).

**Class Cancellations:**

Not Applicable. Class fully online.

**Technology Requirements:**

Make sure you have **strong** internet access throughout the semester. Tests/Quizzes where connection is lost may result in a 0 as they will automatically submit. Microsoft word/powerpoint access, Google Earth, and a reliable computer is needed. Submit assignments in word or pdf unless otherwise specified. Please do not submit .pages or other format files. You have unlimited submissions on any assignment up to the due date.

**Important Dates:**

Last day to drop with a tuition refund Sept 7th

Last day to withdraw without grade penalty Sept 27

End of Exam period Dec 15th

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Make sure to complete your own work. When doing citations please use APA. Please refer to the school’s plagiarism codes.

**American with Disabilities Act**

If you think or know that you need an accommodation based on a disability, you are encouraged to

contact a counselor for Disability Services in the Counseling Center to discuss possible

accommodations. All information is kept confidential and may increase your chances of success in

the academic setting. More information may be found at Mason disability website.

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| Date  Every Week starts *Monday morning 6am to Sunday 11:59pm* | Topics | Readings | Assignments Due :  All Weekly Assignments due Sunday 11:59pm |
| Week 1  August 23rd-29 | Syllabus Week | Syllabus  Get Familiar with Blackboard | Orientation Quiz & Introductions |
| Week 2  August 30-Sept 5th | Geography Intro | Chapter 1 | Exercise 1 |
| Week 3  September 5th- 12 | Europe | Chapter 2 | Final Project Step 1  Map Quiz |
| Week 4  September 13th- 19th | Russia | Chapter 3 | Discussion 1  Map Quiz |
| Week 5  September 20th- 26th | North America | Chapter 4 | Exercise 2  Map Quiz |
| Week 6  September 27th-Oct 3rd | Middle & South America | Chapter 5 | Map Quiz |
| Week 7  October 4th- 10th | Reading Week | Review | Review & Final Project Step 2 |
| Week 8  October 11th- 17th | Midterm Week  *Available 10/11-10/17* | None | **Midterm due Sunday 11:59pm 10/17** |
| Week 9  October 18th- 24th | Sub-Saharan Africa | Chapter 6 | Discussion 2  Map Quiz |
| Week 10  October 25th-31st | North Africa and Southwest Asia | Chapter 7 | Map Quiz |
| Week 11  November 1st- 7th | South Asia | Chapter 8 | HW Exercise 3  Map Quiz |
| Week 12  November 8th- 14th | East & Southeast Asia | Chapter 9 | Map Quiz |
| Week 13  November 15th- 21st | Oceania | Chapter 10 | Map Quiz  Discussion 3 |
| Week 14  November 22nd -28th | Thanksgiving Break | None |  |
| Week 15  November 29th- Dec 5th | FINAL PROJECTS | None | **Final Project** |
| Week 16  December 6th- 12th | Final Exam  *Available 12/06-12/12* | Read Notes/ previous chapters before Final | **Final Due 11:59pm Sunday 12/12** |

\*Dates and assignments are subject to change. Please check Blackboard for up to date readings and assignments