

GGG 101_DL5: Major World Regions

Distance Learning Course, Asynchronous Format

Professor: Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Contact: crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Email for zoom appt.

COURSE DELIVERY

Asynchronous online with some OPTIONAL synchronous sessions held via zoom (recorded and available for future viewing). Course content available via BB at mymasonportal.gmu.edu.

Check email prior to synchronous sessions for changes.

REQUIRED 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 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.

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

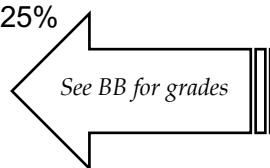
1. Use geographic tools and data sources to profile place and read and interpret information on maps, charts, and photos
2. Identify and describe how humans interact with and adapt to their environment
3. Demonstrate the development of intercultural competencies
4. Describe world regions based on physical, 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 skipping class and missing important announcements. The Announcements tab on BB 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 BB.
- **SHOW RESPECT** for your classmates and myself when interacting; I will do the same.

GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

Mapping Exercises (2).....250 pts, 25%
Assignments (2).....250 pts, 25%
Exams (2).....500 pts, 50%



GRADE CUTOFFS BY POINTS

A	930-1000	C+	780-799
A-	900-929	*no C-	
B+	880-899	C	700-779
B	830-879	D	600-699
B-	800-829	F	0-599

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.

MAPPING EXERCISES (250 pts, 25%)

There are 2 mapping exercises which include labeling countries and geographical features on maps and additional questions about regions. Mapping exercises are not timed.

ASSIGNMENTS (250 pts, 25%)

There are 2 homework assignments; the first is a worksheet style assignment and the second is a map where you chart and explain a geographical pattern of your choosing.

EXAMS (500 pts, 50%)

There is a midterm and a final. Exams are administered via BB and do NOT use Respondus lockdown browser. Exams are a mix of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, and short essay. The final exam is comprehensive, but over 50% of questions pertain to material covered since the midterm. Content is derived from all learning materials pertaining to each week. Take the exam after you have engaged with **all** of the learning materials.

***NOTE:** Exams, assignments, and mapping exercises are open resource, meaning you can use resources on the BB site, books, notes, etc 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.

***NOTE:** You are responsible for proper and timely submission of all graded work; check email for submission receipt and check BB to be sure your submission appears correctly. If you cannot submit via BB, you **MUST** email the item to the professor **before** it is due. If you encounter errors during exams, take screenshots with timestamps and email professor.

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 in advance; simply turn in/complete your item on BB as usual.

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:

Subject Line: Course # AND Section # (example: GGS 101 Sec DL5)

Quick salutation (example: Hi Dr. Rosenfeld)

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

Writing Resources: writingcenter.gmu.edu

Tutoring: <https://learningservices.gmu.edu/tutoring-virtual-options/>

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.

ITS Support Center: 703-993-8870

Counseling Services: SUB I, room 3129, 703-993-2380, caps.gmu.edu

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

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

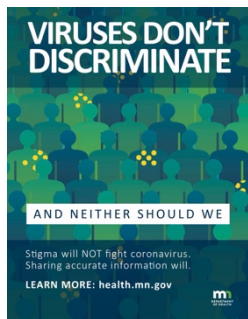
Title IX: diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct, 703-993-8730, 373 Aquia Building

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 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 & ACCOMMODATIONS

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](#).

COURSE SCHEUDLE

Weeks	Week Opens (EST)	Week Closes (EST)	Modules	Due by Sunday 11:59 pm	<i>OPTIONAL</i> Live Zoom Session
Week 1	Monday 8/23 12:01 am	Sunday 8/29 11:59 pm	Thinking Geographically & Geographic Tools Anatomy of the Earth		Tuesday 8/24 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Course Welcome & Orientation
Week 2	Monday 8/30 12:01 am	Sunday 9/5 11:59 pm	Development & Economy Population	I Can Geography Assignment	
Week 3	Monday 9/6 12:01 am	Sunday 9/12 11:59 pm	Europe		
Week 4	Monday 9/13 12:01 am	Sunday 9/19 11:59 pm	Russian Federation, Central Asia, & the Transcaucasus		
Week 5	Monday 9/20 12:01 am	Sunday 9/26 11:59 pm	US & Canada Oceania	Mapping Exercise 1	
Week 6	Monday 9/27 12:01 am	Sunday 10/3 11:59 pm	Arctic & Antarctica		
Week 7	Monday 10/4 12:01 am	Sunday 10/10 11:59 pm	-----	Midterm	Tuesday 10/5 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Exam Review
Week 8	Monday 10/11 12:01 am	Sunday 10/17 11:59 pm	Africa		
Week 9	Monday 10/18 12:01 am	Sunday 10/24 11:59 pm	Africa		
Week 10	Monday 10/25 12:01 am	Sunday 10/31 11:59 pm	Southwest Asia		Tuesday 10/26 8:00 pm-9:00 pm StoryMap Tutorial

Week 11	Monday 11/1 12:01 am	Sunday 11/7 11:59 pm	Asia	Story Map Assignment	
Week 12	Monday 11/8 12:01 am	Sunday 11/14 11:59 pm	Asia		
Week 13	Monday 11/15 12:01 am	Sunday 11/21 11:59 pm	Latin America	Mapping Exercise 2	
Week 14	Monday 11/22 12:01 am	Sunday 11/28 11:59 pm	Latin America		
Week 15	Monday 11/29 12:01 am	Sunday 12/5 11:59 pm	-----	Final Exam	Tuesday 11/30 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Exam Review