

GGG 301_001: Political Geography

In-person Course

12:00 pm-1:15 pm

3012 Horizon Hall

Professor: Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Contact: crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours: TR 1:30-2:30 pm in 2216 Exploratory Hall AND Zoom:
<https://gmuzoom.us/j/9516630401> (Zoom waiting room enabled)

COURSE DELIVERY

In-person. Course materials available via Blackboard at mymasonportal.gmu.edu.

REQUIRED TEXT

This course does not have a textbook. All readings are free and available on BB.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the subfield of human geography called political geography. Subtopics surveyed include traditional areas of focus for the subfield, including electoral geography and state formation, in addition to themes that political geography has taken up since its foundation, including social movements, environmental injustice, etc. Theory foundational to political geography in addition to an array of other social sciences will be discussed alongside historical and contemporary case studies. Special attention is paid to the unevenness of power at various scales as expressed through Politics/politics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

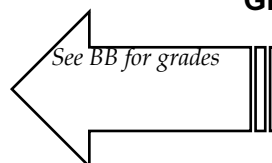
1. Chart history of subfield and future directions
2. Describe how power works and is expressed through Politics/politics
3. Apply theoretical concepts to current events
4. Explain how P/political processes affect people, especially marginalized groups
5. Navigate a scholarly journal article

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- **CHECK AND READ YOUR MASON EMAIL DAILY.** The Announcements tab on BB has a record of all email communication.
- **ATTEND CLASS.** Showing up is half of life.
- **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**
- **SHOW RESPECT** for your classmates and myself when interacting virtually; I will do the same.

GRADING & REQUIREMENTS

Participation..... 100 pts, 10%
Reading Responses..... 100 pts, 10%
Reflection..... 100 pts, 10%
Assignments..... 700 pts, 70%



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.

PARTICIPATION (100 pts, 10%)

For this class, participation means that you show up and when you show up, you're actively engaged with me and your classmates, contributing verbally and non-verbally. If you struggle speaking in class, I hope you find this class comfortable enough to use it as an opportunity to practice AND also take advantage of contributing during partner and/or small group work.

READING RESPONSES (100 pts, 10%)

You must complete 5 Reading Responses (RR) (there are 10 opportunities to complete responses), which are one paragraph (at least 150 words) double spaced where you summarize the key content and argument of one scholarly reading assigned for the week. When you can make connections between readings/topics than span units and/or relate to outside events, do so. You do NOT need to include a works cited page. **At least 2 RR must be completed prior to Spring Break,**

REFLECTION (100 pts, 10%)

At the end of the semester, you are responsible for writing a 2 page (500 words), double spaced, reflection about yourself and the course.

ASSIGNMENTS (700 pts, 70%)

You will complete 4 assignments throughout the course of the semester pertaining to the 4 units/themes of the course. You will have some time in class to work on these with classmates and brainstorm/get feedback. Format of assignments is variable and may include writing, creating visuals, recording a "podcast," conducting observation and interviews, creating an annotated map, etc.

ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES

All assignments must be submitted on BB. Save written 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 RR, you will have two submission opportunities. This is so that you can submit your work once and view the University's plagiarism checker SafeAssign report; then you can correct anything that may be flagged and resubmit. The most recent submission is what will be graded. You are strongly encouraged to view the SafeAssign report and make corrections, as plagiarism is treated seriously in compliance with university policy (see 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 in advance; simply turn in/complete your item on BB as usual.**

Examples:

If something is due to BB on Tuesday at 12:00 pm and:

- You turn it in on Weds 10:46 am, I will mark down that you used a late token; no penalty
- You turn it in on Fri 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 is 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. **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 I can quickly address your concern:

Subject Line: Course # **AND** Section # (example: GGS 301 Sec 001)

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

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

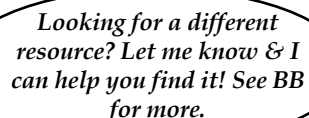
Disability Services: If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance, you should: 1) Make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Services--SUB I, suite 2500, 703-993-2474, ds.gmu.edu and 2) Discuss your accommodation needs with the professor.

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/2hWj10y

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



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

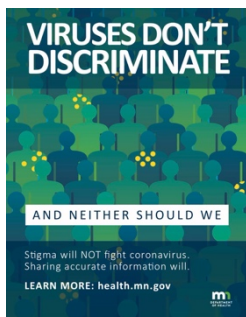
Title IX: diversity.gmu.edu/sexual-misconduct, 703-993-8730, 373 Aquia Building

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.

This syllabus is subject to change but if changes are made, aside from slight weekly content adjustments, they will be clearly communicated via BB