

Major World Regions

GGIS 101__DL9_Asynchronous Online

Professor

Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Email

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Office Hours

Tuesdays/Thursdays
12:30-1:30

2216 Exploratory Hall
or by [zoom](#)

Course Description

This course provides a survey of cultural, physical, and societal aspects of major world regions. It examines how forces across various scales shape the character of place. It explores how regions differ from one another and interrelate with 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. Satisfies the Mason Core Global Understanding Requirement.

Required Text

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

Learning Outcomes

- Use geographic tools and data to profile place
- Identify the distribution of patterns of human and physical geographical features across the globe and describe the geographical processes that explain said patterns
- Demonstrate understanding of how the patterns and processes of globalization make visible the interconnections and differences among and within contemporary global societies
- Identify and articulate one's own values and how those values influence their interactions and relationships with others, both locally and globally
- 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

Student Expectations

- Read email daily
- Reach out if you're stuck
- Display respect

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Grading/Requirements

Submit all items on BB.

250 pts, 25%

Mapping Exercises

Exercises include labeling countries and geographical features on maps in addition to free response questions.

250 pts, 25%

Assignments

You will complete 2 assignments throughout the course of the semester. See BB for directions and rubrics. You may view your SafeAssign report before submitting.

500 pts, 50%

Exams

There is a midterm and a final. Only 20% of the final exam covers cumulative content; the rest covers material taught since the midterm. Each is a mix of multiple choice, T/F, fill in the blank, and short answer. Exams are administered on BB and do NOT use Respondus lockdown browser.

***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.

Grade Point Cutoffs

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

Late Work Policy

Each student starts with 3 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.

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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](#).

Miscellaneous

- Communicate accommodations or concerns.
- Obtain reliable access to a computer and internet.
- Course materials are [private to this class](#).
- Only use your GMU email account; include full name and course #.

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

Additional Resources

See list and links on BB.

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Course Schedule

Week	Week Opens (EST)	Week Closes (EST)	Modules	Due by Sunday 11:59 pm	OPTIONAL Live Zoom Session
1	Monday 8/22	Sunday 8/28	Thinking Geographically & Geographic Tools; Anatomy of the Earth		
2	Monday 8/29	Sunday 9/4	Development & Economy; Population	I Can Geography Assignment	
3	Monday 9/5	Sunday 9/11	Europe	Mapping Exercise 1	
4	Monday 9/12	Sunday 9/18	Russian Federation, Central Asia, & the Transcaucasus	Mapping Exercise 2	
5	Monday 9/19	Sunday 9/25	US & Canada; Oceania	Mapping Exercise 3	
6	Monday 9/26	Sunday 10/2	The Poles	Mapping Exercise 4	
7	Monday 10/3	Sunday 10/9		Midterm	Tuesday 10/4 12:30-1:30 pm Exam Review (live zoom & recorded)
8	Monday 10/10	Sunday 10/16	Africa	Mapping Exercise 5	
9	Monday 10/17	Sunday 10/23	Africa		
10	Monday 10/24	Sunday 10/30	Southwest Asia (aka Middle East)	Mapping Exercise 6 Story Map Assignment	
11	Monday 10/31	Sunday 11/6	Asia	Mapping Exercise 7	
12	Monday 11/7	Sunday 11/13	Asia		
13	Monday 11/14	Sunday 11/20	Latin America	Mapping Exercise 8	
14	Monday 11/21	Sunday 11/27	Latin America		
15	Monday 11/28	Sunday 12/4	-----	Final Exam	Tuesday 11/29 12:30-1:30 pm Exam Review (live zoom & recorded)