

Human Geography

GGG 103__001

Course Delivery

In-person

Meeting Time & Location

Tuesdays & Thursdays,
3:00-4:15 pm
Innovation Hall 132

Professor

Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Email

crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours

Tuesdays/Thursdays
12:30-1:30

2216 Exploratory Hall
or by [zoom](#)

Learning Assistant

Wyatt Johnson

Email

wjohns5@gmu.edu

Office Hours

TBA

Course Description

Human geography investigates how human activities are connected to and interact with place. How does place influence people, and vice versa? What are the effects of global processes at the local scale? How is human activity—agricultural practices, 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. This course satisfies the Mason Core Social and Behavioral Sciences Requirement.

Required Text

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

Learning Outcomes

- Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors
- Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs
- 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
- Use geographic tools and data sources to interpret the distribution of spatial phenomena, especially the unequal distribution of phenomena
- Explain how people are influenced by contextual factors and interact with their surrounding physical and socio-cultural environments and landscapes
- Regarding the relationship between human activity and space, place, and landscape, ask and answer: Why this, here? Why that, there?
- Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs

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Student Expectations

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

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.

Grading/Requirements

Submit all items on BB.

150 pts, 15%

Activities

You are required to complete activities occurring during class. Activities occur most but not all weeks and may include things like: mock town hall, group work, worksheet, unit assessment, exam review, etc.

400 pts, 40%

Assignments

You will complete 4 assignments throughout the course of the semester. See BB for directions and rubrics. You may view your SafeAssign report before submitting.

450 pts, 45%

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.

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

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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

Weeks	In-Person Class 3:00 pm-4:15 pm	Topic	Due by Thursday 3:00 pm
Week 1	Tues 8/23 Thurs 8/25	Welcome & Thinking Geographically	
Week 2	Tues 8/30 Thurs 9/1	Geographic Tools Power, Politics, & Place	
Week 3	Tues 9/6 Thurs 9/8	Power, Politics & Place	
Week 4	Tues 9/13 Thurs 9/15	Development, Economy, & Population	Borders Assignment
Week 5	Tues 9/20 Thurs 9/22	Development, Economy, & Population	
Week 6	Tues 9/27 Thurs 9/29	Cultural Geography	Commodity Chain Assignment
Week 7	Tues 10/4 Thurs 10/6	Cultural Geography	
Week 8	Thurs 10/13	Geography of Language	
Week 9	Tues 10/18 Thurs 10/20	Review & Exam Week	Midterm
Week 10	Tues 10/25 Thurs 10/27	Food & Agriculture	
Week 11	Tues 11/1 Thurs 11/3	Urban & Suburban Spaces	Cultural Foods Assignment
Week 12	Tues 11/8 Thurs 11/10	Humans & the Environment	
Week 13	Tues 11/15 Thurs 11/17	Humans & the Environment	
Week 14	No Class	None	StoryMap Assignment
Week 15	Tues 11/29 Thurs 12/1	Review & Exam Week	Final Exam