GGS103-Human Geography
SYLLABUS

Course Information
Course Number: GGS103 DL2
Course Title: Human Geography
Term: Fall 2022
Class Meetings: ONLINE
Location: Blackboard

Professor Contact Information
Professor: Ronald Luna, PhD
Email: **rluna5@gmu.edu**
Office Hours: By Appointment/Zoom

Course Description:
Overview of major ideas and approaches to studying spatial aspects of human social and behavioral systems. Surveys distribution and movement of human populations, characteristics and distribution of cultural mosaics, patterns of economic interdependence, and study of forces of cooperation and conflict among people from global perspective.

GGS 103 SATISFIES THE MASON CORE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REQUIREMENT.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors
2. Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs
3. 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
4. Use geographic tools and data sources to interpret the distribution of spatial phenomena, especially the unequal distribution of phenomena
5. Explain how people are influenced by contextual factors and interact with their surrounding physical and socio-cultural environments and landscapes
6. Regarding the relationship between human activity and space, place, and landscape, ask and answer: Why this, here? Why that, there?
7. Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs

Course Prerequisites: None

Required Textbooks (Available Free Online): All textbook are suggested and not required. Can be used for additional support with lecture topics.

Title: Introduction to Human Geography: A Disciplinary Approach
Author: Steve Graves
https://sites.google.com/site/gravesgeography/

Title: Human Geography
Authors: Rosenfeld, Christine & Burtch, Nathan.

Title: Introduction to Human Geography.
Open Geography Education
Author: Adam Dastrup
https://humangeography.pressbooks.com/front-matter/introduction/

Breakdown of the class activities and assignments:

Planning and Preparing	Critiquing and Revising
Quizzes	Students will be asked to complete quiz based on information from that module. Quizzes will include both short answer and multiple choice questions.
Database Research	**Each module**, students will work with different datasets, building skills and accumulating knowledge which they can apply and incorporate into their final project. The instructor will also provide reflection questions to expand on important concepts introduced in each dataset. Students will receive feedback from the instructor on ways to improve their analysis in anticipation of the final paper and project.
Reflection Assignments	**Each module**, students will be asked to submit a short written response to a key question based on that week's module. Some reflection questions will incorporate material from course videos and/or datasets reviewed that week. Students will receive feedback from the instructor in anticipation of upcoming assignments or quizzes.
Videos/Articles	Several short documentaries and/or TED Talks will be posted on ELMS for your review. Material from these required videos/articles will be used to answer your reflection questions. Students are expected to watch the assigned videos or read the articles. All videos will be made available by the start of each week.
Final Project	In the second half of the course, students will begin to work on their final project; planning out their paper and power point presentation. Students will submit progress reports to their instructor and obtain feedback on key project components.

Point Distribution: Assignments fall into one of two categories (individual or final project).

Individual Assignments (80%)
Quizzes – 130 points
- Pre-module quiz 10 points
- Quiz #1 – 40 points
- Quiz #2 – 40 points
- Quiz #3 – 40 points

Reflection Assignments – 120 points
- Reflection #1 – 40 points
- Reflection #2 – 40 points

- Reflection #3 – 40 points

Final Project (20%) -90 points
Background Report – 40 points
Final Development Plan - 50 points

Total: 340 Points

Grading Plus/Minus Grading:
All assignments will be given a numerical grade on a 100-point scale. At the end of the semester, your overall numerical grade will be calculated based on points earned with relative assignment weights applied. It will then be converted to a letter grade using the following scale.

100-93 = A
92-90 = A-
89-87 = B+
86-83 = B
82-80 = B-
79-77 = C+
76-73 = C
72-70 = C-
69-67 = D+
66-63 = D
62-60 = D-
59-0 = F

All grades will be determined by the above method. **There will be no extra credit assignments.**

Course & Instructor Policies

Writing Guidelines for Reflection Assignments:
All reflection assignments should follow the same writing guidelines, including:
- Title of your paper
- Double-spaced
- 12-point font
- Times New Roman font
- One-inch margins
- Page numbers top right corner
- Sections headings
- No extra spacing between paragraphs

Writing Guidelines for Final Project:
The background report and the final development plan should follow the same writing guidelines, including:

- Cover page with name, date, course and section number, and the title of your paper
- 6 pages in length minimum
- Double-spaced
- 12-point font
- Times New Roman font
- One-inch margins

- Page numbers top right corner (excluding cover page)
- Sections headings
- No extra spacing between paragraphs
- Support from a minimum of three credible sources and two databases highlighted in the course material.
- A complete bibliography. Please adhere to proper APA citation format, including both in-text/parenthetical citations and final references. For more information please see: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/

A sample paper with much of the format describe above can be found here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/18/):

Email: If you send an email to the Instructor regarding this course please put in the subject **course number** for a quick response. I aim to answer most email within a 24-hour period during the work week.

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, 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.

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

Plagiarism and Honor Code
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Make sure to complete your own work. When doing please use proper citation. Please refer to the school's plagiarism codes. It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity regarding coursework and grades. The Honor Code reads as follows: "To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work." More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found at the Office of Academic Integrity website at http://oai.gmu.edu

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. 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 https://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

Important Dates:
Last day to drop with a tuition refund   Sept 7th
Last day to withdraw without grade penalty   Sept 27th
End of Exam period   Dec 15th

Date Every Week starts _Monday morning 8 am to Sunday 11:59pm_	Topics	Database	Readings/videos	Assignments Due : All Weekly Assignments due <mark>Sunday 11:30pm</mark>
Pre-Module Week 1 August 23rd-29	Syllabus Week Database Tutorial PowerPoint		Read Syllabus	None
Module 1 Week 2 August 30-Sept 5th	Lecture 1: Geography Intro Lecture 2: Development	Human Development Index	Sustainable article	None
Module 1 Week 3 September 5th- 12	Lecture 3: Legacy of colonization in Latin America	CIA factbook	Haiti Video	None
Module 1 Week 4 September 13th- 19th	Lecture 4: Legacy of colonization in Africa	Sustainable Development Goals/ Indicators		Reflection Assignment #1 Quiz #1 <mark>Complete by 11:30pm</mark>
Module 2 Week 5 September 20th- 26th	Lecture 5: Population	Census Bureau	Hans Rosling and Population Pyramids video Population Pyramid Future Prediction video China article/video	None
Module 2 Week 6 September 27th-Oct 3rd	Lecture 6: Poverty	The World Bank's Poverty and Equity	#GlobalPOV and Sheryl WuDunn video	None
Module 2 Week 7 October 4th- 10th	Lecture 7: Urbanization		Urbanization Article	None
Module 2 Week 8 October 11th- 17th	Lecture 8: Migration	Migration Data Portal	Migration Article	None
Module 2 Week 9 October 18th- 24th	Lecture 9: Refugees	UNHCR Population Statistics Database	Refugee Article	Reflection Assignment #2 Quiz #2 <mark>Complete by 11:30pm</mark>
Module 3 Week 10 October 25th-31st	Lecture 10: Health	World Health Organization	Health Article	None

Module 3 Week 11 November 1st- 7th	Lecture 11: Ethnic Conflict		Ethnic Conflict Video	
Module 3 Week 12 November 8th- 14th	Lecture 12: Globalization	IMF database	Globalization Article Globalization Video	Review the final project instructions
Module 3 Week 13 November 15th- 21st	Lecture 13: Environment and Natural Resources		Natural Resources Article	Reflection Assignment #3 Quiz #3 Complete by 11:30pm
Week 14 November 22nd -28th	Thanksgiving Break			None
Week 15 November 29th- Dec 5th	FINAL PROJECTS			**Background report due on Sunday 12/5 at 11:30 pm**
Week 16 December 6th- 12th	FINAL PROJECTS *Available 12/06-12/12*			Final Development Plan **11:30 pm Sunday 12/12**

*Dates and assignments are subject to change. Please check Blackboard for up to date readings and assignments. You will be notify of any changes via email.