

Spatial Justice

GGG 590__005

Professor

Dr. Christine Rosenfeld

Email

crosef@gmu.edu

Office Hours

By appointment, email to arrange

2216 Exploratory Hall
or by [zoom](#)

Course Delivery

In-person

Meeting Time & Location

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:30-2:15 pm
Horizon Hall 1010

Course Description

This 3-credit course activates or flexes your already-existing social justice mindset with a spatial perspective. Spatial Justice provides a set of theories to teach us how to critically interrogate unequal distribution of various environmental and social resources, resulting in patterns of social inequality. We consider what can be done to disrupt processes and discourses that have led to spatial injustices in the first place. Geographers and non-geographers are welcome. The course does not require, nor teach, technical skills; however, there is flexibility in course projects so that students may produce quantitative or qualitative analyses.

Required Texts

Readings are free and accessible on Blackboard (BB).

Learning Outcomes

- Define and identify spatial justice and injustice
- Explain theories of spatial justice
- Analyze sets of conditions that lead to injustices
- Evaluate impact of various ways to minimize or reverse spatial injustices
- Design and implement a plan of action to minimize or reverse an existing injustice

Student Expectations

- Read email daily
- Attend class and be engaged
- Reach out if you're stuck or behind
- Display respect

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Grading/Requirements

Submit all items on BB.

150 pts, 15%

Participation

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 need to miss class, email the professor to make alternative arrangements. Failure to regularly attend class may result in a failing grade.

160 pts, 16%

Reading Responses

You must complete 4 Reading Responses (RR), which are one page (at least 300 words) double spaced where you summarize the key content and argument of an assigned scholarly reading. After each summary, you must also include 3 questions you have about the reading or that arose from the reading. You also must include a link to a news article that is somehow related to the scholarly reading topic and provide a few sentence explanation of the connection between the news article and the scholarly reading.

190 pts, 19%

Annotated Bibliography & Discussion Lead

You will lead a class discussion on an agreed-upon topic that profiles a spatial injustice. In order to prepare, you will create an annotated bibliography with 5 sources that relate to the topic. You will meet with the professor to go over your discussion lead plan and then execute it in class.

500 pts, 50%

Project

There is one major project in the course. It has several parts including: topic submission (50 pts), proposal (100 pts), preliminary report (50 pts), implementation and summary report (100 pts), presentation (200 pts). In a nutshell: you must identify a spatial injustice and take an action to disrupt or intervene into that injustice.

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 1:30 pm-2:45 pm	Topic	Readings	Graded Items Due by Class Time
Week 1	Tues 1/24 Thurs 1/26	Welcome Terms & Theory	Seeking Spatial Justice Excerpts_Soja	
Week 2	Tues 1/31 Thurs 2/2	Terms & Theory Terms & Theory	The Color of Law Excerpts_Rothstein	Reading Response (Tues)
Week 3	Tues 2/7 Thurs 2/9	Spatial Injustice	Bus Riders Union Excerpts_Soja	Reading Response (Thurs)
Week 4	Tues 2/14 Thurs 2/16	Project Overview Spatial Injustice	Hollow Land Excerpts_Weizman	Reading Response (Thurs)
Week 5	Tues 2/21 Thurs 2/23	NO CLASS TUES One-on-One Project Meetings		
Week 6	Tues 2/28 Thurs 3/2	Spatial Injustice	Pollution & Toxic Waste Reading TBA	Reading Response (Tues)
Week 7	Tues 3/7 Thurs 3/9	Spatial Injustice	Cancer Alley Reading TBA	Discussion Lead (Tues & Thurs) Project Topic (Tues)
Week 8	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Week 9	Tues 3/21 Thurs 3/23	Disruptions & Interventions	Right to the City Excerpts_Lefebvre & Harvey	Project Proposal (Thurs)
Week 10	Tues 3/28 Thurs 3/30	Disruptions & Interventions	Making Publics Excerpts_Design Studio for Social Intervention	
Week 11	Tues 4/4 Thurs 4/6	Disruptions & Interventions	Legislation Reading TBA	Project Preliminary Results/Troubleshoot(Thurs)
Week 12	Tues 4/11 Thurs 4/13	One-on-One Project Meetings NO CLASS THURS		
Week 13	Tues 4/18 Thurs 4/20	Disruptions & Interventions	Infrastructure Reading TBA	
Week 14	Tues 4/25 Thurs 4/27	Presentations (Graduate)		Presentations (Tues & Thurs)
Week 15	Tues 5/2 Thurs 5/4	Presentations (Undergraduate)		Presentations (Tues & Thurs)