

Major World Regions

GGG 101__009 Fall 2024

Professor

Dr. Christine Rosenfeld
(she/her)

Email

crosenfe@gmu.edu

Office Hours

By appointment,
email to arrange

2216 Exploratory Hall
or by [zoom](#)

Teaching Assistant

Casey Yuan (she/her)
myuan5@gmu.edu

Learning Assistant

Creighton Dunlap
(she/her)
cdunlap6@gmu.edu
Office Hours TBA

Required Text

Finlayson, Caitlin. World
Regional Geography:
[https://worldgeo.pressbo
oks.com/](https://worldgeo.pressbooks.com/) ***Free***

Student Expectations

- Come to class, interact, display respect
- Read email daily
- Reach out if you're stuck

Course Delivery

Hybrid in-person & asynchronous online via Canvas at canvas.gmu.edu

Meeting Time & Location

Tuesdays 10:30 am-11:45 am
1008 Horizon Hall in-person

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 in our globalizing world. Acquiring a familiarity with and a foundation in the geography of the 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 Contexts (and the former Global Understanding) Requirement.

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
- Identify and explain how patterns of global connections across nations and/or cultures have shaped societies to create interdependence and inequality.
- Use a disciplinary lens to demonstrate knowledge of how at least one nation and/or culture participates in or is affected by global contexts.
- Apply an understanding of one's own positionality within a globally interdependent and unequal world to analyze solutions to global problems.
- 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

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Grading/Requirements

Submit on canvas.

100 pts, 10%

Participation

This is an on-ground class and as such, regular in-person attendance and attention is required. If you need to miss class, email the professor to make alternative arrangements. Failure to regularly attend class may result in a failing course grade.

300 pts, 30%

Mapping Exercises

You will complete 5 mapping exercises (60 points each) which include labeling countries and geographical features on maps in addition to responding to free response questions. There are 7 opportunities to complete mapping exercises.

150 pts, 15%

Place Across Scale Assignment

You will create a map that examines how a single nation is connected with or participates in its regional setting and then how this single nation is connected with and affected by global contexts outside of its home region.

100 pts, 10%

Town Hall Assignment

You will prepare a stakeholder statement regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation, participate in a mock town hall, and post to the discussion board.

200 pts, 20%

Quizzes

You will complete 5 quizzes (40 points each) on Canvas that pertain to weekly asynchronous content. There are 7 opportunities to complete quizzes.

150 pts, 15%

Final Exam

There is one comprehensive final exam. It is multiple choice with a country identification write-in portion. Exam administered in person.

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 Canvas.

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Academic Standards

George Mason University has academic standards 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.

Miscellaneous

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

Additional Resources

- See [Common Policies Addendum](#) on Canvas.

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. *Share your name and gender pronouns and how best to address you in class and via email and update your PatriotWeb profile.*

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. Students who are pregnant or experiencing pregnancy-related circumstances are welcome to reach out to the professor to discuss adjustments. The university directs you to the [Pregnant and Parenting Adjustment Form](#).

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Course Schedule

Weeks	In-Class Meeting Day	Canvas Content	Class Meeting Content	Due by Tuesday 10:30 am	Due by Sunday 11:59 pm
Week 1	8/27	Geographic Tools	Introduction World Regional Orientation		Mapping Exercise 1
Week 2	9/3	Anatomy of the Earth Development & Economy	Population Pyramids	Quiz	
Week 3	9/10	Europe Regional Orientation	Separatism in Europe	Quiz	Mapping Exercise 2
Week 4	9/17	Russia & Central Asia Regional Orientation	Central Asian Culture	Quiz	
Week 5	9/24	Russia & Central Asia Regional Orientation	Soviet Ecological Disasters Current Event: Russia & Ukraine	Quiz	Mapping Exercise 3
Week 6	10/1	The Polar Realms	Scramble for the Arctic		
Week 7	10/8	Africa Regional Orientation	South Sudan & Sudan	Quiz	Mapping Exercise 4
Week 8	10/15	Review Week	Review & Catch Up		
Week 9	10/22	Southwest Asia Regional Orientation	Current Events	Place Across Scale Assignment	Mapping Exercise 5
Week 10	10/29	Asia Regional Orientation	Climate Change in Asia	Town Hall Assignment	
Week 11	11/5	Asian Geopolitical Case Studies	NO CLASS MEETING	Quiz	Mapping Exercise 6
Week 12	11/12	Latin America Regional Orientation	Venezuela & Guyana Cuba	Quiz	Mapping Exercise 7
Week 13	11/19	US & Canada Regional Orientation	Canada fun, eh? ☺		
Week 14	11/26	Oceania Regional Orientation	NO CLASS MEETING		
Week 15	12/3	Review Week	Review & Catch Up		

Comprehensive Final Exam During Finals Week TBA