Distance Education GGS 103: Human Geography

Fall Semester 2016

GGS 103 fulfills Mason Core requirement in Social and behavioral science.

Instructor: Patricia Boudinot

Email: pboudino@gmu.edu

Virtual Office Hours: I am available between Sunday at 7 pm through Friday at 7 pm to respond to student inquiries and during this five day period, I will try my very best to respond within 24 hours. If necessary an appointment can be scheduled via Skype.

Campus Office Hours: Wednesday between 8 am and 10 am at Exploratory Hall, Room 2201. I highly encourage the students to come to my office.

Honor Code:

“Students members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work.”

In this course, you are not to:

• Access sources/information during an on-line exam/quiz
• Give help or information/work to a friend/classmate

Read the Honor Code for a list of definitions and examples

Content:

This course introduces students to the study of patterns and processes that have shaped the use and the modification of the Earth's surface. In the changing world, this course will encourage students to make important connections across boundaries.

Course Prerequisites:

There are no formal prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Master spatial awareness by using appropriate geographic tools.
2. Describe and then explain a geographic document such as map/photograph/chart.
3. Make the difference between quantitative and qualitative information
4. Understand the social and behavioral sciences
5. Analyze empirical observations in relation to theory
6. Use proper citation
7. Identify, evaluate and properly cite resources appropriate to the field, such as audio/visual/online/print materials and artifacts.
8. Using Google Earth you will build a final project on one human impact in the local environment.

Required textbook:


Important Dates:

Last day to add class: Tuesday September 6, 2016

Last day to drop without penalty: Tuesday September 6, 2016

Learning Community:

In this online course, each week opens on Tuesday.

Each week is structured as follows: readings in the textbook and in other sources, video lectures and assignments.

Working online requires dedication and organization. Students must check their GMU email messages on a daily basis and communicate any questions or problems that might arise promptly.

Netiquette:

In our online learning community, we must be respectful of one another. Please be aware that innocent remarks can be easily misconstrued. Sarcasm and humor can be easily taken out of context. When communicating, please be positive and diplomatic. I encourage you to learn more about Netiquette.

Performance-based assignments:

You will be evaluated by the tasks which appear below.

I expect all students to submit all the assignments on time as this is a no late submission policy distance education course: any missing assignment will be graded as zero.
**Course orientation quiz**

The course orientation quiz which will be offered as soon as Week 0 and it is due no later than Thursday September 08, 2016 at 11:59 pm.

Please review the syllabus.

The course orientation quiz will last 15 minutes, will display eight questions: each question, worth .25 point, will be multiple choice or True/False.

**Test**

Three tests are scheduled this Semester. Each test will last 50 minutes, will display thirty four questions (including two extra credit questions): each question, worth .5 points, will be multiple choice or True/False.

Each of the three tests will open on Friday at 6 am and will close the following Monday no later than 11:59 pm.

Please understand that all materials will be used to generate questions: textbook readings and other items appearing in the reading assignments, close-captioned video lectures and exercises.

**Exercise**

Five exercises are scheduled this Semester.

Each exercise will open on Wednesday at 6 am and will close the following Monday at 11:59 pm.

**Discussion**

Three Discussions are scheduled this Semester.

The discussion will be open on Blackboard on Wednesday at 6 a.m. and it will close the following Monday at 11:59 pm.

There are two mandatory steps to completing the Discussion

Step 1: submit your initial post.

Step 2: read your classmates’ posts and reply to four of them.

Please note that your initial post and your four replies will be accurate and will range between 50 to 60 words

Please understand that I expect all the students to post and reply on TWO DIFFERENT DAYS.
Final Project

You will expose one human impact in the Chesapeake Watershed.

The description of the Final Project can be found in the “Syllabus and Documents”. Please read it carefully.

There are two steps to completing your Final Project.

1. Step 1/ Week 7

2. Step 2/ Week 15: submit your Final Project no later than Tuesday December 13, 2016 at 11:59 pm

Please note that all the times are EST (Eastern Standard Time)

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL ACTIVITIES

GRADING PERCENTAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Course orientation quiz</td>
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<td>48%</td>
<td>Tests</td>
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<td>Final Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Discussions</td>
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<td>Exercises</td>
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Grade cut-offs:

A 90% – 100%
B 80% - 89.99%
C 69% - 79.99%
D 60% - 68.99%
F less than 60%

Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Modules</th>
<th>Textbook Reading Assignments</th>
<th>Video lectures</th>
<th>Assignment Type and their due date</th>
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Week 0  
08/23  
None  
Course Orientation Video  
Course orientation quiz due no later than 09/08 at 11:59 pm

Week 1  
08/30  
Geography  
Chapter 1  
Geography 1  
Geography 2  
Introduce yourself  
Mark your calendar  
Get familiar with Google Earth

Week 2  
09/06  
Population Geography  
Chapter 2  
Geography of Population 1  
Geography of Population 2  
Exercise 1 due no later than 09/12 at 11:59 pm

Week 3  
09/13  
Population Geography  
Chapter 2  
Geography of Population 3  
Geography of Population 4  
Exercise 2 due no later than 09/19 at 11:59 pm

Week 4  
09/20  
Development  
Chapter 9  
Development 1  
Development 2  
Test 1 due no later than 09/26 at 11:59 pm

Week 5  
09/27  
Migrations  
Chapter 3  
Migrations 1  
Migrations 2  
Exercise 3 due no later than 10/03 at 11:59 pm
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Due Date and Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Culture 1,</td>
<td>Discussion 1</td>
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<td>10/10 at 11:59 pm</td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Languages 1</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
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<td>10/11</td>
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<td>Step 1</td>
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<td>Test 2</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Urban Geography 1</td>
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<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<td>11/29</td>
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Technology requirements:

Hardware:

You will need access to a Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and to a fast and reliable broadband internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. You will need speakers or headphones to
hear recorded content and a headset with a microphone is recommended for the best experience. For the amount of Hard Disk Space required to take a distance education course consider and allow for: 1. the storage amount needed to install any additional software and 2. space to store work that you will do for the course. If you are considering the purchase of a new computer, please go to http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/services-students.cfm to see recommendations.

Software:

This course uses Blackboard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the myMason Portal. See supported browsers and operating systems.

Log in to myMason to access this course.

Access to a Computer Workstation with:

Web browser (See Blackboard supported browsers and operating systems)
Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download)
Flash Player (free download)
Windows Media Player (free download)
Microsoft Office Word (purchase)

Note: If you are using an employer-provided computer or corporate office for class attendance, please verify with your systems administrators that you will be able to install the necessary applications and that system or corporate firewalls do not block access to any sites or media types.

Students Expectations:

Academic Integrity
Students must be responsible for their own work, and students and faculty must take on the responsibility of dealing explicitly with violations. The tenet must be a foundation of our university culture. [See http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/distance].

Honor Code
Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode].

MasonLive/Email (GMU Email)
Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account. [See https://thanatos.gmu.edu/masonlive/login].
**Patriot Pass**

Once you sign up for your Patriot Pass, your passwords will be synchronized, and you will use your Patriot Pass username and password to log in to the following systems: Blackboard, University Libraries, MasonLive, myMason, Patriot Web, Virtual Computing Lab, and WEMS. [See https://thanatos.gmu.edu/passwordchange/index.jsp].

**Responsible Use of Computing**

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. [See http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html].

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See http://ods.gmu.edu].

**Students are expected to follow courteous Internet etiquette**

**Students Services:**

**University Libraries**

University Libraries provides resources for distance students. [See http://library.gmu.edu/distance].

**Writing Center**

The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. [See http://writingcenter.gmu.edu]. You can now sign up for an Online Writing Lab (OWL) session just like you sign up for a face-to-face session in the Writing Center, which means YOU set the date and time of the appointment! Learn more about the [Online Writing Lab (OWL)](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu) (found under Online Tutoring).

**Counseling and Psychological Services**

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See http://caps.gmu.edu].

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the "Buckley Amendment," is a federal law that gives protection to student educational records and provides students with certain rights. [See http://registrar.gmu.edu/privacy].