GGS 540: Health Geography

Course Syllabus, Fall 2017, 3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR COURSE BASICS
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Office hours: Thursday 3:00-5.00 pm
Meeting times: Every Monday, 07:20 pm-10:00 pm
Location: 2310 Exploratory Hall
Web location: Blackboard

REQUIRED TEXT

OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES
GGS 590 surveys environmental impacts on health, and encompasses a broad range of topics regarding human and environmental health. At its core, health geography is the study of human-environment interactions and the influence of these interactions on population health – i.e., how people interact with their physical and social environment to promote health and wellbeing or to increase their vulnerability to disease and/or illness. The approach taken in this course will focus on examining health-related issues (e.g., disease, illness, health care access, nutrition) from the perspective of populations. Major health issues and health care systems from around the world will be evaluated and discussed. The course covers three major integrated approaches to health geographic research: ecological (relationships between people and their environment), social (human behavior), and spatial (mapping and spatial analysis).

ASSIGNMENTS & EXPECTATIONS
All assignments will be available on Blackboard. Assignments must be submitted electronically through Blackboard prior to the due date/time. All students are expected to not only attend class, but also be active participants. Healthy and constructive discussion of the course material are encouraged.

GRADING POLICY
Assessment Points % (of final grade)
Assignments 35%
Attendance 10%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Project 35%
The final grade is computed out of 100 points using the following letter mapping:

100-96 A+; 95-93 A; 92-90 A-;
89-87 B+; 86-83 B; 82-80 B-;
79-77 C+; 76-73 C; 72-70 C-;
69-60 D; < 59 F

CLASS SCHEDULE

Lecture I
Introduction, Questions in Health Geography, Defining Health
Chapter 1

Lecture II
Ecology of Health and Disease
Chapter 2

Lecture III
Expanding Disease Ecology
Chapter 3

Lecture IV
Transitions and Development
Chapter 4

Lecture V
Maps and Spatial Analysis
Chapter 5

Lecture VI
Disease Diffusion
Chapter 6

Lecture VII
Emerging Infectious Diseases and Landscape Genetics
Chapter 7
Lecture VIII
Food, Diet, and the Nutrition Transition
Chapter 8

Lecture IX
Midterm

Lecture X
Neighborhoods and Health
Chapter 9

Lecture XI
Urban Health
Chapter 10

Lecture XII
Environment and Health
Chapter 11

Lecture XIII
Climate and Health
Chapter 12

Lecture XIV
Health Care and Final Thoughts
Chapter 13

Lecture XV
Final Project Presentation
**GGS COMPUTER LAB ACCESS**  
All GGS students should receive “swipe” access (using your Student ID) to the GGS Student Computer Lab (Room 2102, Exploratory Hall) upon registering for the course. If you experience problems accessing the lab, please see Samantha Cooke in the Main GGS Office (2400, Exploratory Hall).

**GGS COMPUTER LAB ASSISTANCE**  
If you experience problems with the computers (e.g., software or hardware issues) in the GGS Student Computer Lab (Room 2102, Exploratory Hall), please email our student lab assistants, Hong Vuong (hvuong2@gmu.edu) and Ian McVey (imcvey@gmu.edu) for technical assistance.

**GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS**  
Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See http://masonlive.gmu.edu for more information.

**OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES**  
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, http://ods.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

**GMU RESOURCES**  
The Writing Center: http://writingcenter.gmu.edu  
University Libraries, Ask a Librarian: http://library.gmu.edu/ask  
Counseling and Psychological Services: http://caps.gmu.edu  
University Catalog: http://catalog.gmu.edu  
University Policies: http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu