GEOGRAPHY 101
MAJOR WORLD REGIONS

Fall Semester 2012

Syllabus

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE (3 Credits)

ONLINE SCHEDULE:

Major World Regions

Fall Semester 2012

Instructor: Patricia Boudinot

Email: pboudino@gmu.edu

Phone: (703) 993-1331

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment or Skype. I am available every day for student inquiries. I will respond to student inquiries within 24 hours

Content: “Patterns, problems, and prospects of the world’s principal human-geographic regions. Emphasis will be made on areal differentiation and the role geographic differences play in the interpretation of the current world scene (from the George Mason University Catalog 2010-2011).” 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. Understand spatial awareness by using appropriate geographic tools.
2. Describe and then explain a geographic document such as map/photograph/chart.
3. Identify, evaluate, and properly cite resources appropriate to the field, such as audio/visual/online/print materials, or artifacts.
4. Understand global patterns.
5. Understand the interconnectedness, difference, and diversity of a global society.
6. Analyze global problems or issues.
7. Build an international trip project using Google Earth.

**Required textbook:**

Please note that there is a 3 hole-punch textbook at the George Mason bookstore . I have made this decision in order to keep the price down as I do expect every student to buy the textbook, an essential support of the class.
If you prefer to buy a hard-copy, I will respect your choice.

**Useful Websites:**

United Nations: www.un.org : every student should know by heart the first article or the universal declaration of the human rights… please go find it, write it and learn it by heart

UNESCO (educational, cultural and scientific organization): www.unesco.org


International Data Base (international demographic data )www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/

US Census Bureau : www.census.gov

For library resource Video Tutorials
Go to : library.gmu.edu/education/students/tutorials.html

**Learning Community:**

In this online course, each week begins on Sunday. The day before each session a friendly reminder will be sent to you as an announcement via email.

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.

**Important dates:**

**Last day to add classes:** Tuesday September 4, 2012

**Last day to drop with no tuition penalty:** Tuesday September 4, 2012

You will be evaluated by the tasks which appear below.

**Test**

3 tests are scheduled

Each test will be open from Wednesday morning at 6 am to the following Saturday at midnight, will last one hour and a half, will display one question at a time, will be multiple choice or True/False and will not allow backtracking

Please understand that all materials will be used to generate questions: textbook readings, animations, videos and powerpoint presentations.

The three tests have to be submitted so any missing test will be graded as a zero

**Map quiz/ Exercise**

Five map quizzes are scheduled.

You will need fifteen minutes to complete a map quiz.

All scheduled map quizzes have to be submitted so any missing map quiz will be graded as a zero.

One exercise is scheduled and will have to be submitted as any missing exercise will be graded as zero.

**Discussion / Essay**

Three Discussions are scheduled.

- Discussion

The discussion will be open on Blackboard on Sunday at 6 a.m. up to the following Friday at midnight. You must submit your initial discussion no later than Tuesday at noon. Read your classmates’ posts and reply to two of them between Tuesday noon to Friday midnight. Your initial discussion and your two replies will be accurate and will range between 25 to 50 words.
- Essay

Between Wednesday at 6 am to the following Saturday midnight, you will submit a 250 words Essay: half supporting the Pros and half supporting the Cons.

All students have to participate to the discussion/essay: any missing one will be graded as a zero

**Final Project**

You will build a one week trip either in South America or in East Asia.

You will work in pairs for the peer review and a list of the pairs will be uploaded in Blackboard a few days before the Peer Review starts.

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

The final project is due on Wednesday December 12, 2012 no later than midnight: please plan ahead as a non submitted final project by this date and time will be graded as a zero.

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

**STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL ACTIVITIES.**

**GRADING PERCENTAGE**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Final Project (including the Peer Review equal to 5% of the final grade)</td>
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<td>15%</td>
<td>Map quizzes / Exercise</td>
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<td>Discussions</td>
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**Grade Cutoffs**

A+ 98% - 100%, A 93% - 97.99%, A- 90% - 92.99%

B+ 86% - 89.99%, B 83% - 85.99%, B- 80% - 82.99%

C+ 76% - 79.99%, C 71% - 75.99%, C- 69% - 70.99%

D 60% - 68.99%

F less than 60%
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<tr>
<th>Learning Modules</th>
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<td><strong>Week 0</strong> 08/19</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>View - Course Orientation Video</td>
<td>Blackboard Flash Player</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong> 08/26</td>
<td>Course Introduction in Blackboard Textbook Introduction A world on maps 4-6 Location and Distribution 6-11 Regional framework and geographic perspective 27-29</td>
<td>View Geography GIS video</td>
<td>Blackboard Flash Player</td>
<td>Introduce yourself and upload a photograph or an avatar Mark your calendar and plan ahead Start practicing Google Earth</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong> 09/02</td>
<td>Textbook Major population clusters 17-19 Demographic transition 324-325 Appendix Birth Rate, Death Rate, Natural Increase</td>
<td>View World Population World Population2</td>
<td>Blackboard Flash Player Google Earth</td>
<td>Exercise 1</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong> 09/09</td>
<td>Textbook Patterns of economic development 23-25 Globalization 25-27 Appendix Life Expectancy, Literacy, Big Mac Price</td>
<td>View Development Development 2</td>
<td>Blackboard Flash Player</td>
<td>Map Quiz 1</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong> 09/16</td>
<td>Textbook North America’s Physical Geography 118-121</td>
<td>View USA and Canada San Francisco</td>
<td>Blackboard Flash Player</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
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<td>Week  5 09/23 South America</td>
<td>Textbook</td>
<td>View</td>
<td>Blackboard Flash Player</td>
<td>Map Quiz 2</td>
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<td>The federal map of North America 124-126 Cities, industries and the information economy 127-131</td>
<td>South America 1</td>
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<td>States ancient and modern P.179-184 Agricultural land and deforestation P.184-185</td>
<td>South America2</td>
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<td>Week  6 09/30 South America</td>
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<td>Urbanization P.186-189 Future Prospects P.189-191 Brazil: Giant of South America P.210-217</td>
<td>South America3</td>
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<td>Africans and their land P.225-226 Environment and health P.226-227 Africa’s historical geography P.227-234</td>
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<td>Week  7 10/07 Subsaharan Africa</td>
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<td>Test 2</td>
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<td>Geographic Panorama P.352 Political Geography P.353 Environment and population P.353-356 Reorganizing nations and states P.368-373 Population Issues P.376</td>
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<td>SubsaharanAfrica2</td>
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<td>Week  8 10/14 East Asia</td>
<td>Textbook</td>
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<td>A tectonic encounter P.311</td>
<td>South Asia</td>
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<td>South Asia2</td>
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<td>Week  9 10/21 South Asia</td>
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<td>Week 10 10/28 Russia</td>
<td>Textbook</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
<td>Russian roots P.94-97 Colonial legacy P.98-100 Soviet legacy P.98-100 Russia’s changing political geography P.100-103 Geopolitics in the Arctic P.457-459</td>
<td>Russia Russia2</td>
<td>Test 3 International Trip Project Draft Due; Begin Peer Review</td>
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<td>Week 11 11/04 Europe</td>
<td>Textbook</td>
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<td>Europe</td>
<td>Geographical features 32-35 Contemporary Europe 38-43</td>
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<td>Map Quiz 4</td>
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<td>Week 12 11/11 Europe</td>
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<td>Europe</td>
<td>European Unification 43-49</td>
<td>European Union European Union2</td>
<td>Discussion 3 Peer Review of International Trip Project Due</td>
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<td>Week 13 11/18 South East Asia</td>
<td>Textbook</td>
<td>View</td>
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<td>South East Asia</td>
<td>A geographic overview P.390-391 SE Asia’s Physical Geography P.391-394 Colonialism’s Heritage P.397-405</td>
<td>South East Asia South East Asia 2</td>
<td>Map Quiz 5</td>
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The Final Project is due no later than Wednesday December 12th at midnight. At this date and time, any missing Final Project will be graded as zero.

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.

Student 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.**

**Student 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) (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].