

## Course Orientation Transcript for GGS 102

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Hello, welcome to GGS 102 Introduction to Physical Geography. My name is Patricia Boudinot and I am your instructor for the course. Hopefully, you have already reviewed my bio on the Course Welcome page by clicking on this About the Instructor link.

Let's click on the Getting Started link.

This course orientation video will help you to become comfortable and familiar with this online course environment, goals, and expectations. This is the first of 3 easy steps in the Getting Started section of the course.

In Step 2 you should read the syllabus closely in order to become familiar with the course goals, assignments, quizzes and projects. If you do not have Adobe Reader, please download it by selecting this icon.

In Step 3 you should carefully read about the student resources available to you. These links open in a new tab or window. When you have finished viewing the page, close the tab or window to return to the course.

The Responsibilities and Services section details technology requirements, student expectations, student services and there is a link provided to course evaluation summary reports. Responsibilities and services can be found on the course menu to the left.

Technical Support provides links to Blackboard FAQs Blackboard Tutorials. If you cannot find the answer to your question, email [courses@gmu.edu](mailto:courses@gmu.edu) for assistance with Blackboard. For computer networking questions, see Information Technology Unit Support for Students. If you cannot find the answer to your question, email [support@gmu.edu](mailto:support@gmu.edu) or call (703) 993-8870.

For general questions about the course, see the Syllabus. If you still have questions, email me at [pboudino@gmu.edu](mailto:pboudino@gmu.edu).

In order to view this page full screen, collapse the windows by selecting this icon on the Table of Contents and this arrow on the Course Menu.

The bread crumb trail at the top of the screen will help you to keep track of where you are in the course.

The Announcements page is where you will find weekly communication from me. View this page for important course information. Whenever I post an announcement, you will receive a notification email. Ensure you check your Mason email daily.

The Weekly Modules page is where you will find the course content each week when it is made available to you. Weekly Modules include readings, video lectures, exercises,

quizzes and videos. Check the syllabus for technical requirements necessary to access the course content.

The Syllabus and Documents page is where you will find the syllabus and additional course content organized into folders.

The Discussions page is where you will find assigned discussion questions. It is also where you can post general course questions and technical questions for me to answer. Posting your questions here will allow students with the same questions to have their questions answered as well. Ensure you have reviewed the syllabus and the technical resources listed here prior to posting your question.

The Tools page is where you will find additional course tools. Collaboration allows me to meet with students virtually via chat. My Grades allows you to view your course grades. Send Email allows you to send email to me and your classmates.

The Student Resources shown here were discussed in the Step 3 of the Getting Started section. They are placed here in the Course Menu as quick links for your convenience. Please familiarize yourself with them.

You are ready to start this course if you have completed Steps 1 through 3 in Getting Started. I look forward to getting to know everyone and to an enjoyable learning experience!