

Tutorial Letter 102/1/2018

**Know Your World: Introduction to
Geography**

GGH1501

Semester 1

Department of Geography

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In this tutorial letter we welcome you to Module GGH1501. We introduce the lecturing team and explain how the rest of the semester will proceed. Please read this letter attentively so that you will know what to expect and what to do.

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1 WORD OF WELCOME

Welcome to this module, which will guide you in discovering the world in a way that you might not have thought of until now. Thinking geographically implies the ability to make connections between phenomena at different scales, both locally and globally. Looking at the uniqueness of different places in the world forms part of this, but you will learn that places do not function in isolation. A further dimension is supplied by scale and connection, implying that what is happening locally can have consequences globally, while global processes can have effects on the local environment. In all of this the role of distance features prominently, since places can be far from one another or close together. People and environment form the overarching context; geography is concerned with the link between the physical and the human environment, and regarding the world in its totality rather than separating it into parts.

2 MODULE OVERVIEW

The module kicks off with Learning unit 0, which is an introduction to studying in the online environment. You need to visit the module site for GGH1501 on myUnisa frequently, as this module is predominantly offered online. Only Tutorial Letter 101 is

sent to students in print format, therefore you have no option but to go online to get access to study guidance via the module site for GGH1501, to download study material if you prefer to work offline and to participate in all the activities to enrich your learning.

Following Learning unit 0, Learning unit 1 introduces the context and some cross-cutting themes for the module, while Learning unit 2 reviews the physical systems that are governing phenomena, including precipitation, soil and vegetation. Learning units 3 and 4 respectively provide a geographical view on the world's population and different cultures, with the emphasis on differences and similarities between places worldwide. We explore the reasons why these differences and similarities exist and the implications thereof. Learning unit 5 explains how people make or earn a living, thereby drawing together many of the ideas in the previous learning units. The resource and sustainability perspective provided in Learning unit 6 caps the theoretical learning units, while Learning unit 7 deals with data on geographic phenomena that can be utilised in various ways, for example on maps and to assist us in making meaning of the world based on what we observe and what is happening.

To whet your appetite on what to expect in this module, watch the video clip entitled "Geography is key", which provides a visual showcase of the themes that you will study in GGH1501. Please watch this clip, which is available on the **Welcome Page** of the module site for GGH1501 or at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naK9_JkFAOk

3 GGH1501 LECTURERS

Module coordinator: Prof Rudi Pretorius

Technical support: Mr Carel Greyling

Lecturing team:

- Mr Carel Greyling, +27 11 670 9464, egreyla1@unisa.ac.za
- Prof Rudi Pretorius, +27 11 471 3680, pretorw@unisa.ac.za
- Mr Curtis Mashimbye, +27 11 471 2107, mashinc@unisa.ac.za

4 WHO TO CONTACT FOR WHAT

Learning unit specific enquiries:

- Learning units 0, 1 & 7: Mr Carel Greyling
- Learning units 4, 5 & 6: Prof Rudi Pretorius
- Learning units 2 & 3: Mr Curtis Mashimbye

Assignment 01

- Mr Carel Greyling

Assignments 02 and 03

- Question-specific enquiries: Contact the lecturers who are responsible for the learning unit/s that your question/s refer to.
- General/other enquiries: Prof Rudi Pretorius.

Module site

- Mr Carel Greyling

Assignments (general)

- Mr Carel Greyling

Examination

- Prof Rudi Pretorius (general enquiries only; examination enquiries about specific learning units to be directed to the relevant lecturers)

FI concessions

- Mr Curtis Mashimbye

Prescribed textbook

- Mr Carel Greyling

Any other enquiries

- Prof Rudi Pretorius

5 STUDY MATERIAL

Your study material for GGH1501 consists of the following documents, all of which are available for downloading via the GGH1501 module site (see **Additional Resources**) on myUnisa. (Abbreviations: LU = Learning unit; TL = Tutorial letter; SG = Study guide)

The following study material is already available on the GGH1501 module site on myUnisa:

- GGH1501_SG001_2018: Learning units 0 to 7 (see **Additional Resources**)
- TL 101: General orientation and assignments (see **Official Study Material**)
- TL 102: This tutorial letter, guidance on processes during the semester (see **Additional Resources**)

The following study material is being compiled and will be made available on myUnisa during the semester:

- TL 103: Comments on activities in LUs 0, 1, 2 and 3; comments on test-yourself exercises for LUs 1, 2 and 3
- TL 104: Examination guidance
- TL 105: Comments on activities in LUs 4, 5, 6 and 7; comments on test-yourself exercises for LU4, 5, 6 and 7
- TL 201: Comments on Assignments 01 and 02
- TL 202: Comments on Assignment 03

The following additional material and information will also be made available on myUnisa during the semester (see **Additional Resources**):

- Answer key (memorandum) for Assignment 03 (after it has been marked for the whole class)
- Additional supporting material such as PowerPoint presentations on difficult topics (see **eTutor** sites)
- Guide on how to use the prescribed textbook

6 myUNISA

As explained in the official information about GGH1501 on the Unisa website, GGH1501 is predominantly offered online. This means that all study material (with the exception of Tutorial Letter 101) is only available online. We strongly advise you to participate in the online learning activities and group work for GGH1501 on myUnisa. Regular access to myUnisa and the internet is therefore essential. The myUnisa learning management system is Unisa's online campus that will help you to communicate with your lecturers, other students and administrative departments of Unisa. Here you can obtain free access to non-course-specific and course-specific functions, as explained in Tutorial Letter 101, in the study guide (GGH1501_SG001_2018) and in the online learning units. We trust that you have already registered on myUnisa so that you will be able to submit your assignments online, gain access to library functions and various learning resources, chat to your lecturers, e-tutors and fellow students about your studies, and participate in online discussion forums and other online activities.

7 TUTORS AND E-TUTOR SITES ON myUNISA

Each student will be linked to a group site (also referred to as an e-tutor site), which is an additional site on myUnisa that allows groups of about 300 to 400 students to participate in tutorials and various online activities. This site is managed by your e-tutor. The activities described in the learning units take place on your group site, where you can also interact with fellow students. You must visit this site at least twice a week. You will automatically be linked to a group site — you therefore do not need to do anything. We hope that this process will be concluded as soon as possible. **Once the group sites have been activated, an announcement will be posted on the GGH1501 module site. If this announcement has been made and you have not been linked to a group site yet, you should contact the module coordinator so that he can request the e-tutor coordinator to fix the problem.**

Various activities and videos are included in each learning unit. It is important that you do these activities and watch the videos. The e-tutors will set up discussion

forums on the group sites to enable you to engage with them and with your fellow students about these activities. Although we realise that this requires a lot of work and your time may be limited, we encourage you to participate in these discussions, watch these video clips and do as many of the activities as possible, because they will greatly enhance the quality of your learning. Comments on each of the activities are supplied in tutorial letters later in the semester. Although feedback on the video clips is not given, general feedback on the test-yourself exercises is included in tutorial letters.

8 VIDEO CONFERENCES

Owing to a long record of poor attendance, no video conferences will be presented for GGH1501 this semester. However, we will consider to produce a set of podcasts and make it available later in the semester. The podcasts will be posted on the module site for GGH1501 on myUnisa.

9 ERRATA IN TUTORIAL LETTER 101 AND THE ASSIGNMENTS

9.1 Errata in TL 101, Semester 1: Introductory sections of TL 101

Page 4: Sections entitled “Work through Learning Unit 0” and “Start working on the rest of the learning units”

These two sections state that a document entitled **MO001**, which contains a printout of the online learning units, can be downloaded via the **Additional Resources** tab on myUnisa. Note that this document is no longer entitled **MO001**, but **GGH1501_SG001_2018**, and it has been uploaded to a folder called **Study guide**, which you will find under **Additional Resources** on myUnisa.

9.2 Errata in Assignment 01, Semester 1

Question 4, page 16: Refers to the textbook for 2016, while it should be the textbook for **2018**.

9.3 Errata in Assignment 03, Semester 1

Question 9, page 27: Alternative (1) reads “... **declining** natural increase rate”.

Please change alternative (1) to “... **increasing** natural increase rate”.

Question 27, page 32: The question reads “Developing countries are inclined to specialise in” Please change it to “Developing countries are inclined to specialise in **business services such as**”

10 ASSIGNMENT 02: GUIDELINES AND MARK ALLOCATION

Herewith a few points of advice and guidelines to Assignment 02 to assist you in structuring your answers. Please refer to TL 101 for the questions, which are not repeated here. Compile a single list of all the sources you have consulted to answer the assignment questions and include the list at the end of your assignment. Note that Question 1 is compulsory, but you must only answer four of the five remaining questions.

Plagiarism (copying directly from sources such as books or the internet), if detected, will be severely punished and may lead to the allocation of zero marks. Information obtained from sources needs to be rephrased in your own words and the source referenced – refer to TL 101 for advice on referencing. If you copy directly, the information needs to be in quotation marks. Note that it is unacceptable to quote a whole answer directly from a book or the internet.

QUESTION 1 (map reading – compulsory question; Learning units 2, 3, 5 and 7)

You can easily get full marks for this question if you work from the textbook or use the maps supplied as part of the assignment in TL 101. We recommend that you use the online version of TL 101, in which the maps appear in colour, which will make them easier to use. It would be best if you answer this question by using the given table format. The table needs to be filled out with the required information, which you will find in the maps. There is no need for a lengthy explanation of the information in the table or any other aspects of the maps.

Mark allocation: 1 mark per cell of the table with correct information, to be reworked to a mark out of 10

QUESTION 2 (Learning units 1 and 7)

You are asked to evaluate the maps in Figures 7 and 8 in TL 101 objectively, in terms of the scale and shading that have been used. You can assume that the map title provides a clue to the purpose of the map, and use this to evaluate whether the scale and shading that have been used are appropriate. Tip about scale: Focus on the utility of small-scale maps versus large-scale maps.

Read more about the importance of an appropriate large or small scale linked to the purpose for which a map is used in the following study material: p. 55 of Section A of the prescribed book; pp. 8 to 9 of Section B of the prescribed book; Section 1.4.5 in Learning unit 1 of the study guide; and Section 7.4.6 in Learning unit 7 of the study guide.

Read more about the appropriate use of shading in the following study material: pp. 59 to 61 of Section A of the prescribed book; pp.8 to 9 of Section B of the prescribed book; and Sections 7.4.5 and 7.4.8 in Learning unit 7 of the study guide.

Length of answer: 500–750 words

Mark allocation: 6 marks for the explanation of scale and 4 marks for the explanation of shading

QUESTION 3 (Learning units 1 and 2)

To answer this question well, you must understand the meaning of the term “spatial distribution” and be able to identify different patterns of spatial distribution. Examples of these patterns are discussed in Learning unit 1 of the study guide. Read more about spatial properties in Section 1.4.3 in Learning unit 1. Once you understand these terms, use Figure 5 in TL 101 to identify the desert areas of the world, and

then try to identify a pattern in how they are distributed over the world. Ask yourself the following: Why would desert areas form? Why are deserts located in specific regions? The answer to these questions refers to factors leading to rainfall, as explained in Learning unit 2. You need to give a short explanation of the processes leading to the distribution pattern of desert areas that you have identified.

Length of answer: 500–750 words

Mark allocation: 5 marks for the identification of the pattern and 5 marks for the explanation of the reasons for the pattern

QUESTION 4 (Learning units 1 and 5)

To answer this question you need to be well acquainted with the meaning of the term “spatial association”, as discussed in Learning unit 1 of the study guide. You also need to study the world distribution patterns of standard of living and the percentage of the labour force engaged in agriculture (dealt with in Learning unit 5). Once you feel confident in your understanding of all of the latter study material, you need to use Figures 6 and 8 in TL 101 to help you to not only identify patterns on the two maps, but also to identify associations between the patterns on the two maps. Note that while Germany is a developed country, the DRC is a developing country, which implies that the disparities between them should be clear in your answer.

Length of answer: 500-750 words

Mark allocation: 5 marks for identification and comparison of patterns on the respective maps and 5 marks for the explanation of the spatial associations between the patterns on the two maps.

Question 5 (Learning units 1, 2 and 3)

This question consists of three parts. Firstly you must refer to the maps in Figures 5 and 6 in TL 101, and secondly you must choose at least one of the given countries where you can observe that climate might constrain human settlement and analyse

this relationship between climate and human settlement critically (4 marks). Do the same for at least one more of the given countries where you can observe that climate enables human settlement (4 marks). Thirdly, for 2 marks, you need to discuss how this view of climate as settlement factor links with geographers' views of human–environment relationships and interactions.

Length of answer: 500–750 words.

Question 6 (Learning units 2, 4 and 5)

You first need to choose a region on which to base your answer to this question. Once you have chosen a region, you must discuss its potential for development in terms of **EITHER** economic growth opportunity and physical features **OR** economic growth opportunities and cultural features. Choose only ONE of these combinations. You may also refer to figures other than those that have been included in Tutorial Letter 101 for this assignment. “Evaluate” means that you need to consider how the given sets of variables enable and/or constrain development in your chosen region.

Length of answer: 500–750 words

Mark allocation: 5 marks for economic growth opportunities and 5 marks for the role of cultural/physical features