

# 1

## The Nature of New York A Regional Geography using Perspectives and Perceptions

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## Nature of New York Course Introduction

**HUNTER COLLEGE GEOGRAPHY**

**Nature of New York**  
GEOG 306.04 (code 29322)  
GEOG 705.03 (code 29834)  
Tue/Fri 12:45 - 2 PM

**SYLLABUS**

- **Instructor:** Anthony F. Grande
- **Email:** [agrande@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:agrande@hunter.cuny.edu)
- **Office:** Room 1032 North Building, Room 1006 North Bldg.
- **Telephone:** (212) 772-5265 or 5266
- **Mailbox:** Geography Dept. Office, Room 1006 North Bldg.
- **Office Hours:** Before and after class; also by appointment.
- **Classroom:** Room 1022 North Bldg.

**UNDERGRADUATE GRADING**

1. **Exams (30%)**  
Two exams (midterm and final) worth 10 pts each.
2. **Required thematic take-home exercises (70%)**  
Seven graded exercises worth 10 pts each.
3. **NO required term paper or project.**
4. **Extra Credit Options**
  - a) Museum, area or site visit.
  - b) Classroom presentation on an approved research topic.
  - c) Additional thematic exercises.
5. **Required work not submitted by the time of final exam earns zero points.**
6. **Late submission of an assignment will lower the earned score.**
7. **Class participation**  
Can only benefit your grade.

## SYLLABUS

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

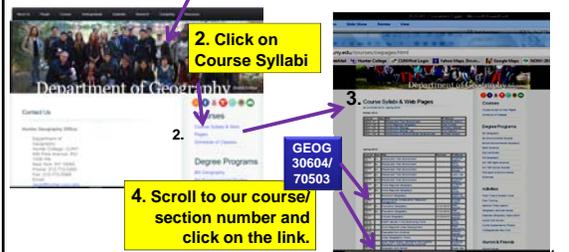
1. Content of all lectures, reading assignments and handouts.
2. Have Internet access to Geography Department's home-page and your Hunter College email account.
3. Attend class lectures. There's a direct relationship between poor attendance and poor grades.
4. Take all exams and submit all required work for grading.
5. Get approval of the topic for any extra credit work.
6. Neat presentation of required thematic exercises, extra credit options and exams.
7. Knowledge of college rules and regulations – which are strictly enforced.
8. Awareness that cheating and plagiarism are grounds for failure and disciplinary action by the College.
9. Registration with the *AccessAbility* Office to qualify for accommodation.
10. See Syllabus for details.

**CALENDAR for Spring 2018**

- Tues., Jan 30: First class meeting.
- ✓ Tues., Feb 20: This is a MONDAY schedule at CUNY. NO CLASS for us.
- Fri., Mar 9: Tentative date for Midterm Exam
- Fri., Mar 30: NO classes scheduled.
- Tue., Apr 3: NO classes scheduled.
- Fri., Apr 6: NO classes scheduled.
- ✓ WED., Apr 11: This is a FRIDAY schedule. WE MEET.
- Tue., May 15: Last NYS class lecture.
- ✓ Fri., May 18: FINAL EXAM 11:30 AM-1:30 PM. Note earlier time!

## ACCESSING COURSE MATERIAL

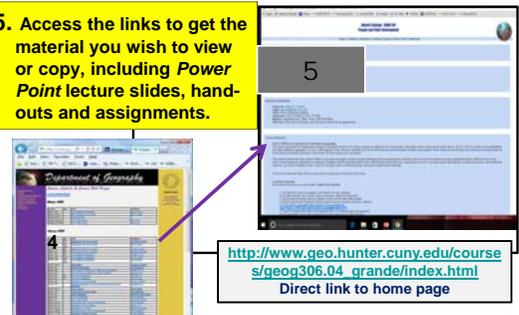
1. Access via Geography Dept Home Page <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu> >Academic depts >Geography **NOT on BlackBoard.** <http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/cwpages.html> : direct link to course listings
2. Click on Course Syllabi
3. Course Subst & Web Pages
4. Scroll to our course/section number and click on the link.



## ACCESSING COURSE MATERIAL

5. Access the links to get the material you wish to view or copy, including *Power Point* lecture slides, handouts and assignments.

[http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog306.04\\_grande/index.html](http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog306.04_grande/index.html)  
Direct link to home page



## SYLLABUS

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To learn about the geography of NYS - its physical environment, the distribution of its people and their activities, and the interrelationships between the people and the environment in NYS - and to apply geographic principles and reasoning to a real world situation where NYS is used as an example of regional analysis.
2. To explore, navigate through and use the geographic information available on the Internet, especially data provided by the State of New York.
3. To become skilled in interpreting this information geographically.

**BOOKS and MAP**



### Thematic Exercises

70% of final grade



- Each student will be randomly assigned a unique group of three counties (next class).
- These counties represent 3 distinct geographic areas of NYS outside of the NYC metro area.
- This county group stays with you for the entire semester and becomes your focus within NYS. No changes after the initial review and acceptance.
- Your answers to the 7 graded exercises (5 are required of all students; 2 are your choice) and any extra credit exercises are based on the data for your assigned counties. [See List of Exercises in syllabus.](#)

7

### Major Topics

- Introduction**
  - Course requirements
  - Fundamental themes
  - Perception
- Physical Nature of NYS**
  - Paleogeography, physiographic regions, major processes, glaciation.
  - Climate controls, regions, change.
- Water Resources:**
  - Surface, groundwater, coastal zone
  - Water quality
- Population Issues**
  - Distribution, Trends, Make-up
  - Health

-- MIDTERM EXAM --

- Historic/Strategic Nature of NYS**
  - Native Americans in pre-European times
  - European discovery, exploration, and settlement
  - NYS and the American Revolution
  - Post-revolutionary period: settlement pattern, canals, railroads, industrialization, urbanization
- Nature of Rural NYS**
  - Biozones, land classification system; wildlife; conservation issues
  - Forestry
  - Agriculture and Soils
- Nature of Urban NYS**
  - Development of the urban-economic landscape, industrial location and manufacturing
  - Original site location of the major cities
  - Geographic city, economic base and variables; trends
  - Post-World War II period to the present
  - Nassau and Suffolk counties
  - New York City
- Economic Nature of NYS**
  - Economic variables; location factors
  - Mineral deposits, land reclamation

-- FINAL EXAM --

8

### Extra Credit Options

You may do any one of the following or any combination of the three to add up to a maximum of 11 points to your final term average.

<p><b>OPTION 1A:</b> Museum Visit write up  <b>1B:</b> Site Visit (field work) write up                  (max. of 5 pts each)</p>
<p><b>OPTION 2:</b> Research Presentation                  Prior approval required.                  (max. of 10 pts)</p>
<p><b>OPTION 3:</b> Additional take-home exercises that are in excess of the ones required for grading.                  (max. of 2 pts each)</p>

9

### Geography. What is it?

♦ **Geography is the study of people living on the surface of the earth.**

- It studies the interaction of people with the physical elements of the natural environment.
- The result is the creation of the **cultural environment** or the "human imprint on the natural environment."

10

### Geographic Points of View

#### Five Fundamental Themes of Geography

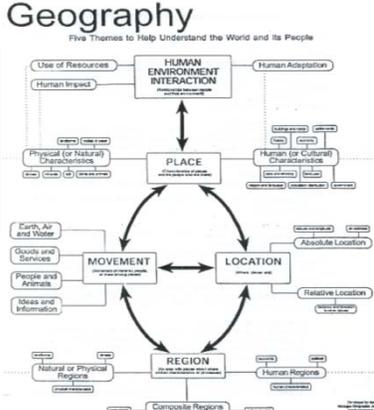
(as developed by the NCGE and AAG) help us to study nature and the nature of a place.

- Location
- Place
- Movement
- Region
- Human-Environment Interaction

11

### Flow Diagram of the Five Fundamental Themes of Geography

Source: Michigan Geographic Alliance



This diagram is at the end of the syllabus.

12

### Five Fundamental Themes

- 1. LOCATION** is the “where” on earth is it.
  - Absolute location = site
  - Relative location = situation
- 2. PLACE** is the “what’s there”: special features of location that make it unique.
  - Includes size, physical/human characteristics, landscapes
- 3. MOVEMENT** is the idea of “mobility”: to, from and within a location.
  - Studies relocation, flow and change of position of people, goods and ideas.
  - Analyzes diffusion from points of origin (routes and methods).

13

### Five Fundamental Themes

- 4. REGION** is the unifying factors of location.
  - Identifies similar characteristics.
  - Studies formation and change over time.
- 5. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** is the relationships (or nature) between people and the physical environment (nature).
  - Looks at perception, use of technology, land use decisions and human impact.

14

### Five Fundamental Themes

✓ To the Five we add the **Earth Science Tradition of Geography**

➤ These are the processes, cycles and systems that constantly modify the natural world and therefore influence people.

They include:

- > geologic and atmospheric processes.
- > seasonal and ecological cycles.
- > biomes and ecosystems.

**THE NATURE OF NATURE!!**

15

### Geographic Methodologies

➤ Geographers study the earth from a number of different ways.

- ❖ **Time reference:**
  - Past – studies developmental processes; change
  - Present – studies today; learns from the past; prepares for the future
  - Future – uses knowledge to make assumptions
- ❖ **Opposing views or dualisms:**
  - Human vs. physical
  - Topical vs. regional
  - Descriptive vs. analytical

16

### Geographic Methodologies

**All three** (past, present and future)

- ✓ Use **geographic research methods** to gather and analyze data: field work, library research, remotely gathered information, and data analysis software programs.
- ✓ Use **cartographic methods and GIS** to portray information spatially: mapping and data analysis.

17

### Nature. What is it?

<b>Environment</b> Natural world Scenery Life Earth	<b>Quality</b> Assessment Attitude Interaction Change	<b>Character</b> What’s it like Makeup Personality Description
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18

### The Northeast at Night

Can you see NYS? What accounts for the distribution of white-colored areas?

19

### Color-enhanced Satellite Image of Landforms

20

### Region. What is it?

❖ **A region is a part of the earth exhibiting similar traits.**

Dividing the world up into regions helps us to bring order to a diverse planet.  
Helps ascertain the nature of the place.

**All regions have these characteristics:**

1. Location
2. Spatial Extent
3. Boundaries
4. Categorization (formal, functional, vernacular)
5. Hierarchical Arrangement (major, minor)

21

### Physical Regions

- Physical regions and their associated natural landscapes define any area, giving it a unique character or "look".
- Their characteristics influence human perception and ultimately land use decisions.
- The lay of the land has been influential in the course of historical events.

22

### Cultural Regions

Cultural regions are created by people. They portray and deal with the human imprint on the natural landscape. Each has a unique story behind the visual scenery. Each exhibits a human interaction that makes it different from other areas.

**NYS Vacation Regions**

**NYS Economic Regions**

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Regions**

- Region 1: Long Island
- Region 2: New York City
- Region 3: Lower Hudson Valley
- Region 4: Capital Region/Northern Catskills
- Region 5: Eastern Adirondacks/Lake Champlain
- Region 6: Western Adirondacks/Eastern Lake Ontario
- Region 7: Central New York
- Region 8: Western Finger Lakes
- Region 9: Western New York
- Region 10: Long Island

23

### Development of the Cultural Landscape

1. The natural landscape sets the scene by influencing (not controlling) people.
2. People have an awareness of their environment (nature of their surroundings).
3. People interact and exploit their environment (use what is available to them).
4. The result is the formation of the cultural landscape (man-made environment) that gives personality (nature of ...) to the area.

24

## Composite Regions

**"Geographic Regions of NYS"** created by **The New York Geographic Alliance** combines physical and cultural features to identify areas that are unique.

**New York: the Empire State**

<http://www.nygeo.org/regions.html>

<http://www.nygeographicalalliance.org/>

25

## Political Regions

**There are 62 counties in NYS, five of which are the boroughs of New York City. Each county has unique natural and cultural characteristics.**

**Here is where your county-based exercises come into play as physical and human landscapes interact.**

26

## Annotated Color-shaded Landform Image

**Landform image with national, state and county boundaries.**

27

## I LOVE NEW YORK CAMPAIGN

**13 EXCITING THEMES TO CHOOSE FROM**

**Go to LoveNY.com/PathThroughHistory**

**Take a Drive Through HISTORY in New York State.**

<https://www.iloveny.com/>

28

## Geographic Axiom

**BUT...**

***The quality (nature) of location (nature) changes with time.***

As we analyze the historical geography of NYS, it will become evident how true this statement is.

29

## NEXT

Perceptions and Mapping New York

30