

<h3>ESSAY 1 Option</h3>	<p>Get details from the Syllabus and Home Page.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ From Chapter 1, you will discuss the contribution to the field of geography or to our knowledge of the world of a noted geographer, earth scientist or explorer (<i>historic or modern era</i>) not noted in class or in the textbook ✓ Focus on the person's contribution, not the biography. Don't refer to the person by his/her first name as "<i>Christopher discovered America in 1492</i>". ➢ Do not use Columbus, Magellan, de Gama, Marco Polo or any names from the lecture slides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Maximum length is 2 pages. ➢ Include a bibliography of at least two sources on a separate page and footnotes if appropriate. ❖ Required essays are due by Tuesday, April 9, 2019 but may be handed in at any time prior to the due date. • Write on any 2 of the 3 topical essays listed on the syllabus and submit them by the due date. • A lateness penalty as stated in the syllabus will be assessed. ✓ If you do all three, the third will count as an extra credit assignment!

3

Studying Geography

Prof. Anthony Grande
Hunter College Geography

Lecture design, content and presentation
©AFG 0119
Individual images and illustrations may
be subject to prior copyright.

The Five Fundamental Themes of Geography

Source: Michigan Geographic Alliance

Any Questions?

This handout is on the course homepage.

Today we will take a closer look at "region".

Geography

Five Themes to Help Understand the World and its People

Focus on "Region"

- ❖ **A region is a part of the earth exhibiting similar traits or characteristics.**
 - ✓ A region can be **natural** or **cultural** or a unique **combination of both**.
 - ✓ Helps us to bring order to a diverse planet by dividing the earth up into unique areas.
 - ✓ Makes it easier to study and compare these areas by setting them apart from others.
- Regions with different characteristics can overlap.

Region

All regions have 5 characteristics:

- Location:** we can find it on earth.
- Spatial Extent:** we can measure it.
- Boundaries:** we can set its limits based on selected/observed characteristics. (However, most boundaries are "fuzzy" and blend into each other.)

Region

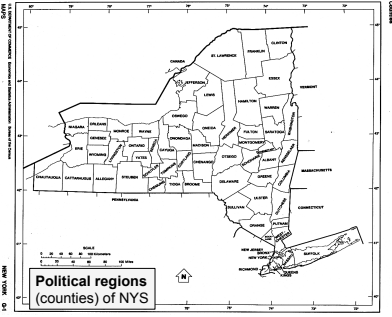
All regions have 5 characteristics:

- Categorization**
 - formal** (exhibit a uniform appearance)
 - functional** (created by interaction or connections)
 - vernacular** (mental or perceptual)

4a: Formal Region

An area that exhibits a uniform appearance or characteristic.

ALSO
Climate region
Landform region
Ecoregion
Agricultural region
Cultural region
Language region
Urbanized region

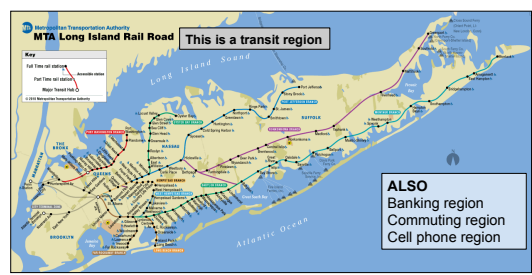


Political regions (counties) of NYS

4b: Functional Region

Is created by interaction or connections.

ALSO
Banking region
Commuting region
Cell phone region

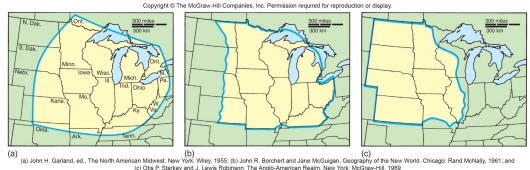


This is a transit region

4c: Vernacular or Perceptual Region

An area created in one's mind (mental image) or popularized by usage.

The Midwest region is defined (perceived) differently by people.



ALSO
Bible Belt
Good neighborhood
Rust Belt
Vacation area

How is "Long Island" defined?

Region

All regions have 5 characteristics:

5. Hierarchical Arrangement

a) major
b) minor

**Regions within
Regions within
Regions within
Regions within
Regions within**

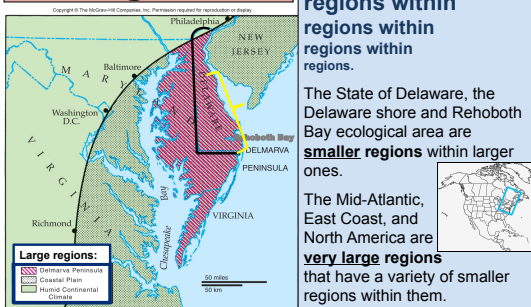
Hierarchy of Regions

NOTE: There are a number overlapping regions portrayed here.

Regions within regions within regions within regions.

The State of Delaware, the Delaware shore and Rehoboth Bay ecological area are **smaller regions** within larger ones.

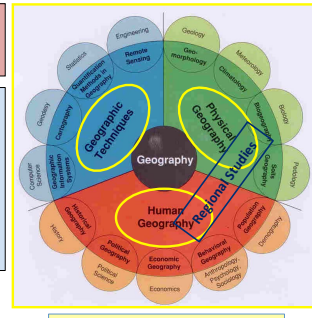
The Mid-Atlantic, East Coast, and North America are **very large regions** that have a variety of smaller regions within them.



Large regions:
Delaware Peninsula
Coastal Plain
Humid Continental Climate

Subfields of Geography

Regional Studies incorporates elements of **physical and human geography** (which create unique natural and cultural landscapes). It uses **geographic techniques** to study them.



This diagram is in the Handout Section of the course homepage.

Geographic Methodologies

Geographers study the earth in a number of ways.

❖ **Opposing views or dualisms:**

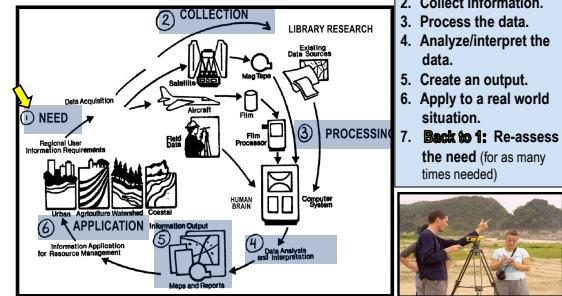
- **Physical** (natural) **vs. Human** (cultural)
- **Topical** (themes) **vs. Regional** (areas)
- **Descriptive** (What's there? Cataloguing, knowledge accumulation) **vs. Analytical** (Why is it there? Hypothesis testing, systematic investigations, spatial analysis)

❖ **Time reference:**

- Past
- Present
- Future

13

GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH



This diagram is in the Handout Section of the course homepage.

14

Geographic Methodologies

Geography of the Present

We study **current** conditions, interrelationships and happenings.

It focuses on today.
It goes back in time to set the scene.
It evaluates the present for future interactions.

Geography of the Past

Historical geography looks at and analyzes the conditions that have led to or influenced the **actions of people over time**.

The emphasis is on **developmental processes**. It studies **change**.

Geography of the Future

Uses the knowledge gained from the past and present to **make assumptions** about the future. Regional and urban planning are examples of this.

15

Geographic Methodologies

All three methodologies (past, present and future)

- ✓ Are studied from **geographic dualisms point of view**.
- ✓ Use **geographic research methods** to gather and analyze data.
- ✓ Look for and analyze **patterns of spatial distribution**, always asking the question **WHY?**.
- ✓ Use **cartographic methods** (mapping) and **GIS** to portray information spatially.

16

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Spatial distribution is the essence of geography.
We need to distinguish between the following:

- ❖ DENSITY
- ❖ CONCENTRATION
- ❖ PATTERN
- ❖ SPATIAL INTERACTION (issues of distance)
- ❖ DIFFUSION (issues of spread)

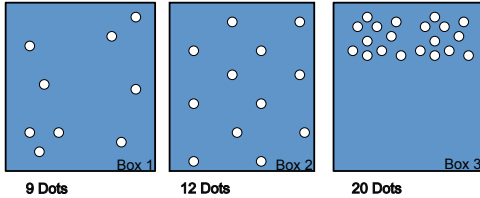
17

Spatial Distribution

- 1. DENSITY:** the number of times something exists within a given unit (space)
(as people per sq. mi. or seats per 400 sq. ft. classroom)
- 2. CONCENTRATION:** grouping of density
(clustered or dispersed; proximity to each other)
- 3. PATTERN:** the arrangement of density
(as linear, rectangular, circular, centralized, random)

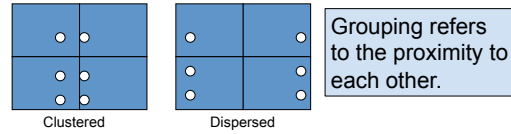
18

1. Density: the number of times something exists within a unit



Which box has the greatest density?

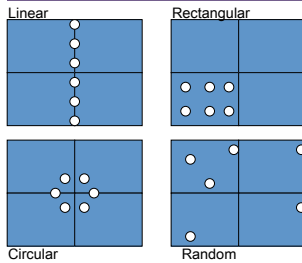
2. Concentration: the grouping



Grouping refers to the proximity to each other.

Each grid has the same density but in different concentrations.

3. Pattern: the arrangement



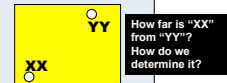
Each grid has the same density.

However, they have different arrangements (patterns) and different concentrations.

4. Spatial Interaction: the movement and contact between parts

a) Distance – How far?

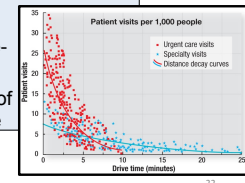
- ✓ Linear distance
- ✓ Time distance
- ✓ Psychological distance



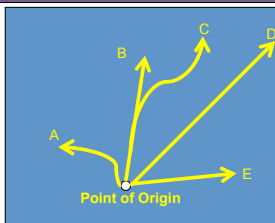
b) Connectivity: linkage; connection of points

c) Accessibility: ease of movement along links

d) Distance Decay: frequency of contact decreases with distance



5. Diffusion: Spread from point of origin



We ask:

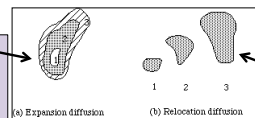
- Why was there movement from point of origin?
- What route was taken? and
- How did that route facilitate movement?

4 TYPES of DIFFUSION

- Expansion diffusion
- Relocation diffusion
- Contagious diffusion
- Hierarchical diffusion

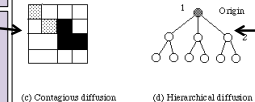
Types of Diffusion

a) **EXPANSION**
Movement away from point of high concentration. Increase in both area and numbers.

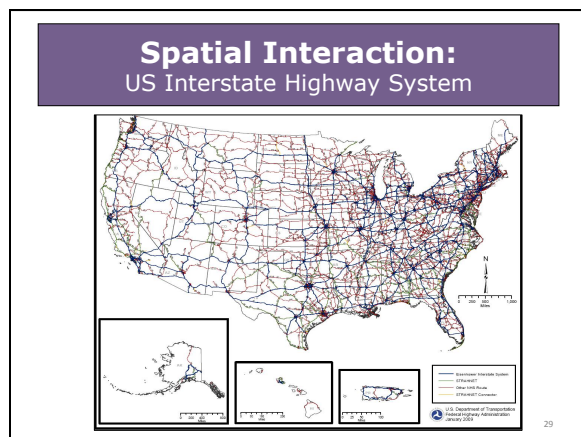
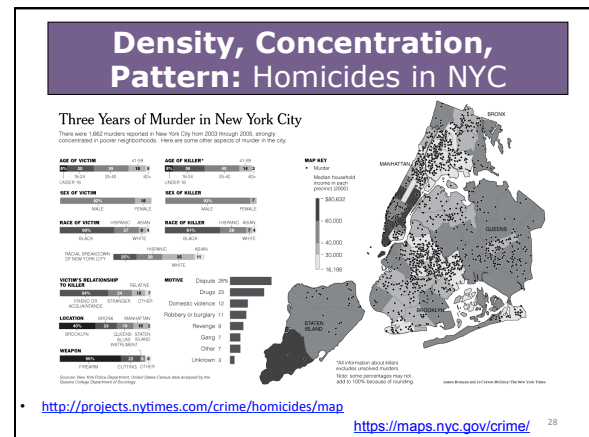
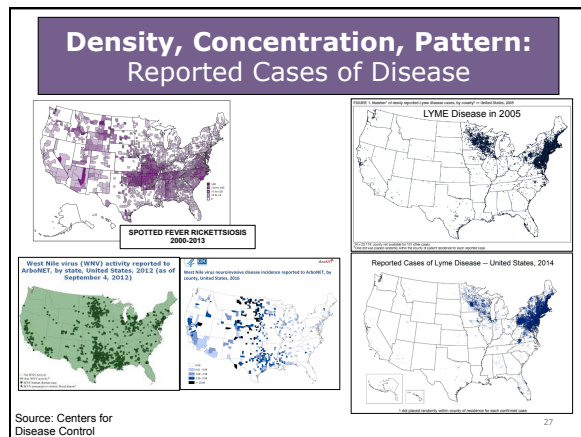
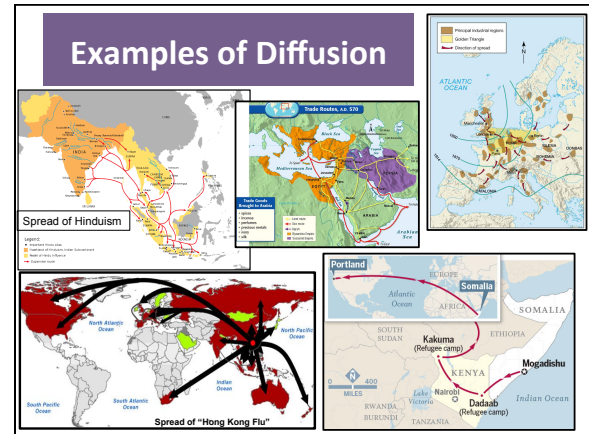
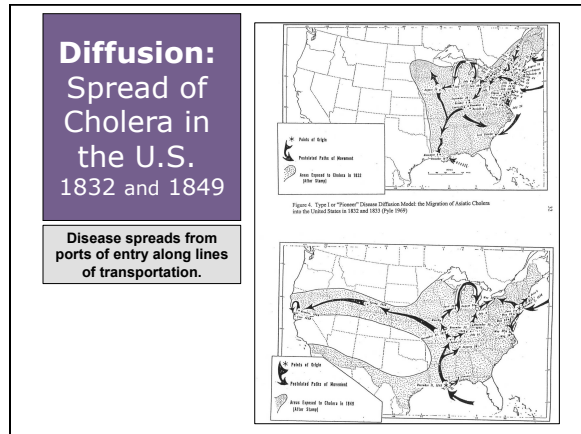


b) **RELOCATION**
Migration; actual movement away to another location.

c) **CONTAGIOUS**
Contact and exchange between adjoining areas (person-to-person contact; blending).



d) **HIERARCHICAL**
Movement between levels – "up the ladder"; skipping areas in between (moving from the small town to big city without stopping at the regional center).



N E X T

**Geographers' Tools:
Making Maps**

31