

# 2

## History of Geography

*(The study of location, place and interrelationships.)*

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Hunter College Geography

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### Flow Diagram

#### The Five Fundamental Themes of Geography

Source: Michigan Geographic Alliance

This handout is available on the course homepage for viewing and printing.

Keep it handy throughout the semester!

### Geography

Five Themes to Help Understand the World and Its People

### ACCESSING COURSE MATERIAL

1. Access G101 course home page via the Geography Dept web site.  
**This course is NOT on BlackBoard.**  
<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu> > Academic depts > Geography
2. Click on Course Syllabi & Web Pages
3. **GEOG 10100 list**
4. Scroll to our course section number and click on the link.

[http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog101\\_grande/index.html](http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog101_grande/index.html): direct link to course listings

### ACCESSING COURSE MATERIAL

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

**5** Tabs at the top get you to the course material.

[http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog101\\_grande/index.html](http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog101_grande/index.html): Direct link to home page (also printed on the syllabus)

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### Geography

Five Themes to Help Understand the World and Its People

### Five Fundamental Themes

#### 1. LOCATION

Addresses the question: **Where?**  
There are 2 types of location:

**A. SITE: absolute location**  
This is **exact placement** on earth's surface: **latitude and longitude** or another grid-based system.

**B. SITUATION: relative location**  
This is location **in relation to other sites**: includes aspects of **accessibility, connectivity, change through technology, and strategic positioning.**

**SITE:** Your seat in this classroom.  
**SITUATION:** Your seat in relation to all other seats at Hunter College.

**NEW YORK CITY**  
Latitude: 40° 7' N  
Longitude: 74° W

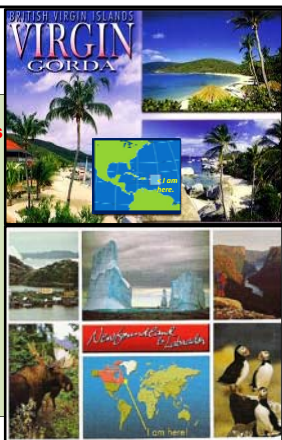
## Five Fundamental Themes

### 2. PLACE

Addresses the **special features** or **characteristics** of a location that make it **unique**.

Includes:

- **Size** (how large or small)
- **Land surface** (terrain, river systems, coastlines)
- **Physical characteristics** (climate, geology, soils, water, wildlife, ecosystems)
- **Human characteristics** (population, ethnicity, land use, architectural styles, transportation networks)

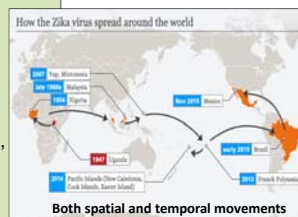


## Five Fundamental Themes

### 3. MOVEMENT

Addresses the idea of **mobility** to, from and within a location.

- ✓ Studies the **flow and repositioning** of people, wildlife, disease, goods and ideas on the earth's surface.
- ✓ **Analyzes diffusion** (or **spread**) from a point of origin.



Both spatial and temporal movements

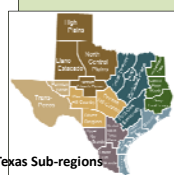
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## Five Fundamental Themes

### 4. REGION

Addresses the **unifying factors** of location.

- Identifies similar characteristics.
- Studies formation.
- Tracks change over time.



Texas Sub-regions



DNA Tribes

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## Five Fundamental Themes

### 5. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

Addresses the **relationships** within locations between **people** and the **physical environment**.

- > Perception
- > Technology
- > Land use decisions
- > Impact



## Five Fundamental Themes Plus One

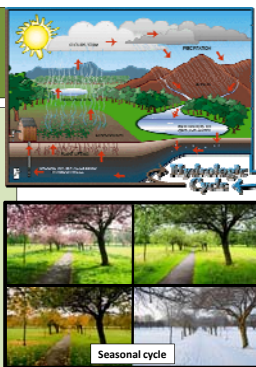
To the Five we add the

**Earth science tradition of geography.**

Addresses the **processes, cycles** and **systems** that constantly modify the natural world and therefore influence people.

These include:

- ☐ geologic and atmospheric processes.
- ☐ seasonal and ecological cycles.
- ☐ biomes and ecosystems (unique zones of life).



Seasonal cycle

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## The Five Fundamental Themes of Geography

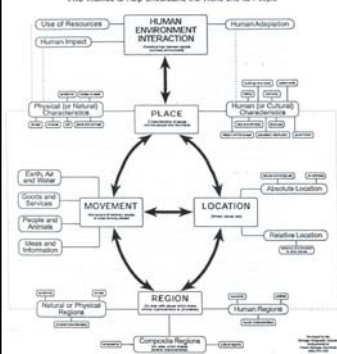
Source: Michigan Geographic Alliance

This handout is available on the course homepage for viewing and printing.

Keep a copy of the diagram handy throughout the semester, especially as you do the text-book readings.

## Geography

Five Themes to Help Understand the World and Its People



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## Origins of Geography

### Roots

❖ Geography's origin goes back as far as humans began interacting with their environment and making decisions.

### Awareness

❑ Early humans developed an awareness of their surroundings:

- ✓ An awareness of the **component parts** of the physical environment.
- ✓ An awareness of the **sequence of events**.
- ✓ An awareness of the **natural cycles**.

### Survival

➢ People have always made decisions about habitat use.

- Food, water and shelter (protection) were needed to survive.

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## Natural Curiosity

Why does it happen?

How does it happen?

When does it happen?

Why does it happen here?

Where else does it happen?

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## Origins of Geography

❖ The Ancients divided knowledge into two categories: **TIME** and **PLACE**

➢ **TIME** >>> *When?* >>> History

➢ **PLACE** >>> *Where?* >>> Geography

From these all other fields of study evolved as people became “specialists” by narrowing their areas of study.

>>> *The Why?*

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## CLASSICAL GEOGRAPHY

**PLACE**

ANCIENTS: Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, Babylon, Indus Valley, Americas

← Oldest known maps (3300 BC, clay tablets)

← Domestication of animals

← Development of technology

← Navigational skills

← Trade

**GREECE**

← Descriptive writing, Systematic study

**ROME**

← Exploration, Mapping, Inventories

**CHINA**

← Travel, Mapping, Inventories, Natural processes

**ARABIA**

← Preservation of the works of Greeks and Romans

← Exploration, Record keeping, Research

**SCANDINAVIA**

← Exploration of Northern Lands (N. Eur., Iceland, Greenland, N. Am.)

**RENAISSANCE EUROPE**

← Great Explorations, Scholarship, Earth Sciences

This chart is available on the course home page for viewing and printing.

Timeline: Earlier | 3300 | 2500 | 1500 | 500 | 0 | 500 | 800 | 1300 | 1700 | Later


**TIME** (up 2000-yr intervals) BC - AD (in 100-yr intervals)

slg 12/03

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## Clay Tablets, Babylonia

Oldest known maps are clay tablets from Mesopotamia dating back to the 3800s BC (5800 years ago).



Map of the world, c.600s BC


British Museum Collection



Map of city of Nippur, c.1400s BC

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## Present-day Map of Europe



www.britain.com

0 500 km

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The writings of the Greek poet Homer reflected the geographical concepts of his time.

Maps of coastal areas made by Ancient Greeks were fairly accurate.

Sailors tended to avoid the open seas and vessels hugged coastlines.

After National Geographic



## The World of Homer

9<sup>th</sup> century BC (3000 yrs. ago)



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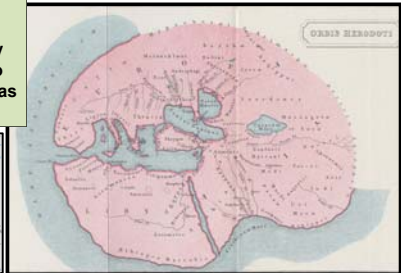
Herodotus (a Greek living in Italy) gained much of his information about the earth from his extensive travels.

He was one of the early group of people who believed the earth was round, not flat.



## World of Herodotus

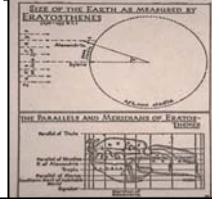
5<sup>th</sup> century BC (2500 yrs. ago)



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Eratosthenes, the chief librarian of Alexandria, is called the "Father of Geography."

Over 2200 years ago, he estimated the earth's circumference to be 25,000 mi by recording the angle of the sun's shadow in deep wells at noon.



## Eratosthenes's World Map

3<sup>rd</sup> century BC



## The World of Strabo

1<sup>st</sup> century AD

❖ Strabo was born in present-day Turkey into a wealthy family. He was well-educated and had access to the great libraries of Rome and Egypt.  
❖ Strabo's "Geography" is a series of 17 books written 2000 years ago that recount the historical geography of Greece and Rome.

- It was used to educate statesmen and military leaders of the Roman Empire.
- He used Eratosthenes's map of the world as a base.



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Last of the ancient classical geographers was Ptolemy, a librarian at Alexandria, who compiled the 8-vol "Guide of Geography" which became the standard reference work for centuries.

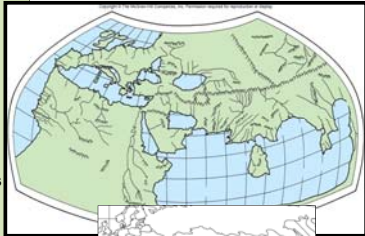
Ptolemy's estimate of the size of the earth made it **smaller** than Eratosthenes's earth.

Columbus based his calculations on Ptolemy's measurements.

These numbers were used into the 1500s when explorers traveling the distances began to prove him in error.

## Ptolemy's World Map

2<sup>nd</sup> century AD



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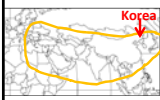
## Non-Western Contributions

- The "Tribute to Yu" was an inventory of the Chinese empire written c. 2,600 years ago (5<sup>th</sup> century BC).
  - The oldest Chinese maps date from 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.
- The libraries of the Arab world preserved the works of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Scholars continued earth-focused studies during the period in Europe called the "Middle Ages" or "Dark Age" (5<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> centuries AD).
- Arab scholars, esp. al-Idrisi (d. 1154), ibn-Battuta (d. 1378), and ibn-Khaldun (d. 1406) were travelers who wrote detailed descriptions of places they visited (Mediterranean, North Africa, Southwest Asia and India).
- Asian scholars and merchants recorded info and mapped areas as they traveled overland across central Asia to Europe and by ship to SE Asia, India and East Africa.
- No record exists of exploration outside their region by empires in Africa and the Americas.

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### Kangnido Map, Korea: 1402



Compiled in the late 1300s this map drew on the knowledge of traders from Korea, Japan, China, Arabia and from Islamic scholars. It shows India, Africa and part of Europe.

*Note size and place distortions.*



### Martin Waldseemüller's Map of the World - 1507

This is the first map in which the name AMERICA is used to designate the lands of the western hemisphere.



*Note shape of North America and South America*

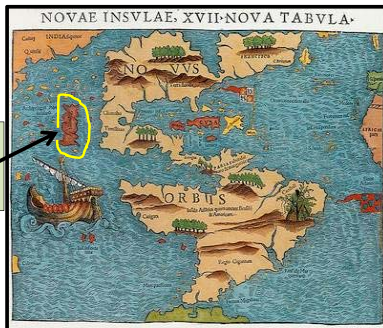
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### Munster Map of the New World: 1552

It is the first map focused on the western hemisphere.

Ornate but very general.

*Note location of Japan (called Zipangri) next to Mexico.*



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### Juan Belleró Map of the Americas 1554

This is one of the first maps devoted just to the Western Hemisphere.



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### Nova Orbis Tabula in Lucem Edita Frederick de Wit, c. 1665

Maps like this were used as wall decoration in the grand rooms of palaces and estates.



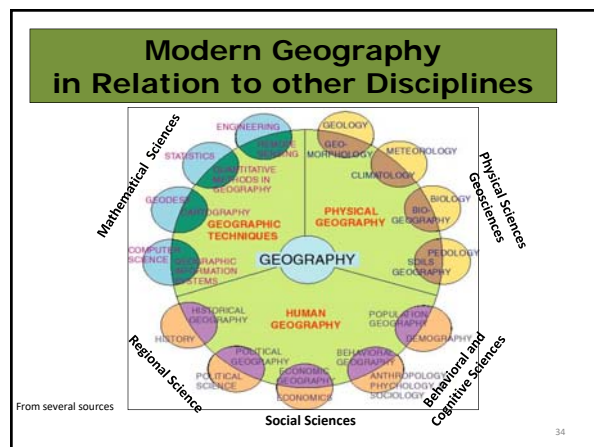
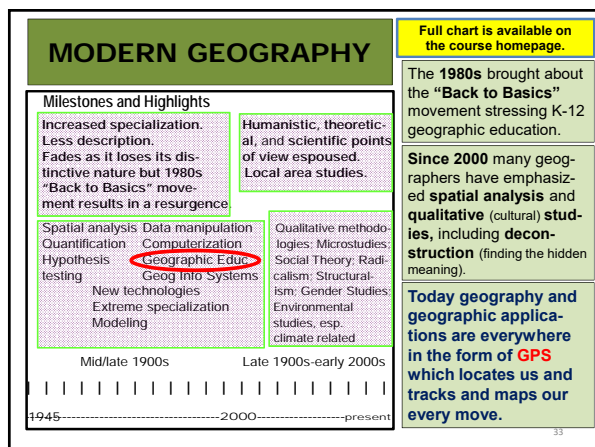
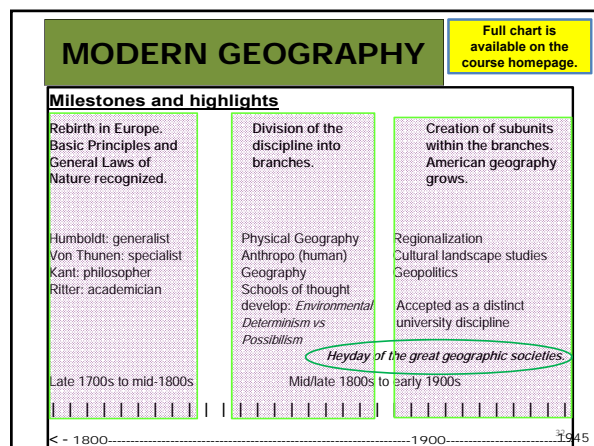
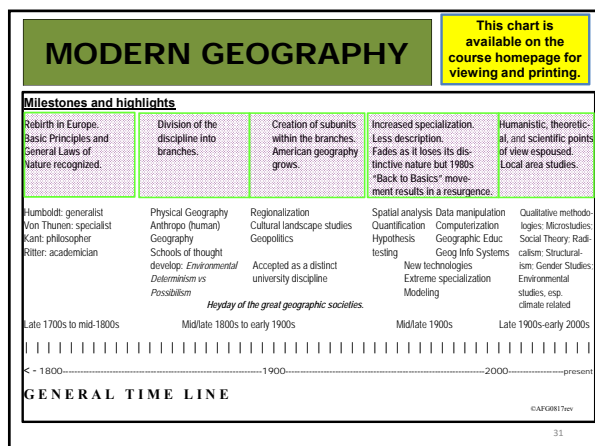
### Regni Mexicani Sie Nova Hispania Ludoviciana, N. Angla

1730 map with detailed information and accurate location.



The David Rumsey Collection (<https://www.davidrumsey.com>) has a very extensive collection of scanned images.

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## ESSAY 1 Option

- ❖ From **Chapter 1**, you will discuss the contribution to the field of geography or to our knowledge of the world of a **noted modern-era** geographer, earth/environmental scientist, cartographer, researcher or explorer **born after 1750**.
- ✓ Focus on the **person's contribution**, not the biography, and don't refer to the person by his/her first name as: "*Christopher discovered America in 1492.*"

- **Maximum length is 2 pages.**
- **Include a bibliography of at least 2 sources on a separate page and footnotes if appropriate.**
- ❖ **All required essays are due by Friday, April 17, 2020 but may be handed in at any time prior to that date.**
- A **lateness penalty** as stated in the syllabus will be assessed starting Apr. 18th.
- **Any two** topical essays from the 3 topics listed on the syllabus are to be submitted by the due date.
- ✓ **If you do all three, the third will count as an extra credit assignment!**

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## NEXT

# Studying Geography

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