

HUNTER COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 260 (code 1439) and GEOG 62151 (code 3811)
Geography of New York State

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Mailbox: Geography Dept., Room 1006 North Bldg.
Office Hours: Before and after class on Mondays and Thursdays; also by appointment.
Classroom: Room 1022 North Bldg.
Computer Lab: Room 1090B North Bldg.

Purpose: **1.** To learn about the geography of New York State – its physical environment, the distribution of its people and their activities, and the interrelationships between the people and the environment in the state - and to apply geographic principles and reasoning to a real world situation where New York State is used as an example of regional analysis. See the list of topics. **2.** To explore, navigate through, and use the geographic information available on the Internet, especially that provided by the State of New York. Each student will focus on three counties and these counties will be the basis of class work and assignments. **3.** For those in the education sequence, in addition to 1 and 2 above, to gather and use information about NYS within the guidelines of the national geography standards for presentation at a grade-specific level.

Books/Map: 1. *Moon Handbooks: New York State, 5th ed. (2010) edited by S. Zuger or 4th edition (2006) edited by C. Bird*, Avalon Travel Publishing, Calif.
 2. Isachsen, Y.W., et al, editors, *Geology of New York: A Simplified Account, 2nd edition*, New York State Museum, NYS Geological Survey, Albany, NY, 2000.
 3. Rand McNally *Easy-to-Read New York State Road Map* (2009) or any highway map of NYS. SKU 0528881922
 4. Stradling, David. *The Nature of New York: An Environmental History of the Empire State*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 2010.

Hunter Library Reserve Room Book for additional readings:

Thompson, John H., *A Geography of New York State*, Syracuse U. Press, 1966 (out of print).
>>Use call number **F125.T5** when requesting this book.

Suggested Readings:

1. Eisenstadt, Peter and Moss, Laura-Eve. *The Encyclopedia of New York State*, Syracuse University Press, 2005.
2. Homberger, Eric. *The Historical Atlas of New York City*, revised edition, Henry Holt and Co., New York, 2005 (Owl Books edition, soft cover).
3. Klein, Milton M., editor. *The Empire State: A History of New York*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, with the NYS Historical Association, Cooperstown, NY, 2001.

Suggested Atlases:

1. *New York State Road Atlas*, Hagstrom Map Co., Inc, Maspeth, NY, 2006.
2. *New York State Atlas*, 4th edition, NYS Department of Transportation, Albany, NY, 1998.
Note: This atlas has each county mapped out separately and is in the college's Wexler Library Reserve Room.
3. *New York State Atlas and Gazetteer*, 7th edition, DeLorme, Yarmouth, ME, 2011.

Web Readings: See course home page.

Web Sites: See course home page.

Grading: 1. **Exams (28%).** There will be two exams (midterm and final) worth 14 pts. each.

2. **Take-Home Internet-based Exercises (72%).** There will be 12 required Internet-based exercises worth 6 points each. Each exercise/write-up is due no later than the second class meeting after its distribution. ***NOTE:*** Exercises submitted late will be penalized one-half point. All students will get an account in the Geography Department Computer lab. There are high speed computers and printers for you to use to complete the take-home exercises. Each student will have an initial credit for printing. Additional access to printing may be purchased in the Geography Department Office, Room 1006HN.

3. **Extra Credit.** (*You may attempt all for extra credit.*)

(a) **Take-home exercises.** Each additional take-home exercise, completed and submitted for grading in the portion of the semester that it was assigned will add up to 1/2 pt. each to your term average. Extra credit exercises are due no later than the night of the midterm or the final exam.

(b) **Glaciation in Your County.** For up to 5 extra credit points on the midterm exam, describe and illustrate the glacial features found in one of your assigned counties. Then, using the one of the mapping sites from Exercise 3, find and print a portion of a topographic map from that county. Circle and identify the glacial features evident on the map. Describe how you know the feature is of glacial origin.

(c) **Urban Site Development in Your County.** For up to 5 extra credit points on the final exam, select one urban place, as the county seat or largest city or tourist town, from any one of your assigned counties and describe its historical geography and landscape development. What was its original site location? What influenced people to settle there? What made it grow at that location? Is that location still beneficial to it? (*You cannot use Binghamton, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Rome, Schenectady or Albany as we will look at them in class.*) Include a map showing the location of the original part of the town.

(d) A research paper consisting of a 4-page narrative **plus** a bibliography **and** maps and illustrations on a pre-approved topic. The paper must be concise, focused on the approved topic and show the geography behind the theme by incorporating at least one of the five themes of geography as presented in class. There has to be at least one map showing the location of the topic within NYS.

4. **Class participation** will help to determine borderline grades.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. You are responsible for the content of all the lectures, reading assignments and class handouts. Assignments and handouts are distributed via the course home page on the Geography Department web site (<http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/cwpages.html>), and in class.

2. Attendance is important. There is no up-to-date comprehensive geography textbook in print. All information will be given to you in class. Historically, there has been a direct correlation between poor attendance and poor grades. The readings from the assigned books and the handouts supplement the lecture.

3. All exams must be taken and required assignments submitted. Failure to do so by the end of the semester will result in a reduced grade unless arrangements are made with me in advance. Then an IN (incomplete) grade may be given. Late written presentations will be penalized. Do not schedule your travel plans to begin before the date of the final exam! See calendar below.

4. Approval is required prior to beginning research. The topic of your research paper or project must be approved in advance to make sure the topic is manageable. *Any student contemplating doing the research paper extra credit option must submit in writing two different proposals and I will select one topic* based on your written justification showing your interest in the topics proposed and an outline of major points to be covered. It is important that your proposal be narrow in scope and focused on a topic.

5. Neatness counts. On exams if I cannot read it, it is wrong. All exercises, research papers, and projects must be typed and presented neatly. Consult the Hunter College Reading and Writing Center for citation and bibliographic formats (<http://rwc.hunter.cuny.edu>).

6. Hunter College rules and regulations are strictly enforced. This includes the CR/NC option and IN grades.

7. Academic Dishonesty. Cheating and plagiarism are grounds for failure and disciplinary action by the College. Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. The Internet is a resource for information, NOT a source of verbatim script. Every person has a unique writing style and use of grammar. Do not cut and paste text found at an Internet web site into your write-ups, research paper or project. Any assignment may be randomly scanned by a search engine seeking key words.

8. Office of AccessABILITY. In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (emotional, medical, physical and/ or learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212- 772- 4857)/TTY (212- 650- 3230). **You must be registered with this office to qualify for the accommodations.**

CALENDAR for Fall 2011

This class meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:45 – 11:00 AM in Room 1022HN.

The Geography Department Computer Lab is located in Room 1090B HN.

Mon., Aug. 29 **First NYS class meeting.**

Mon., Sept. 05 **Labor Day (NO classes at Hunter).**

Thur., Sept. 29 **NO classes at Hunter.**

Thur., Oct. 06?? **Meet in the Computer Lab of the HC Library, 7th floor, East Bldg.**

Mon., Oct. 10 **NO classes at Hunter.**

Mon., Oct. 17 **Midterm exam (tentative date)**

>> Last day to hand in Part I extra credit exercises

>> Last day to hand in the *Glaciation* extra credit assignment for the Midterm.

TUES, NOV 22 **CLASSES FOLLOW THE THURSDAY SHCEDULE – WE MEET**

Thur., Nov. 24 **Thanksgiving Day. NO classes at Hunter.**

Mon., Dec. 12 **Last NYS class lecture.**

>> Last day to hand in the *Urban Site Development* extra credit assignment for the Final Exam.

Thur., Dec. 22 **FINAL EXAM from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM in Room 1022HN**

Do Not Make >> Last day to hand in Part II extra credit exercises.

Holiday Travel Plans
for this day!

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