Hunter College of the City University of New York
Department of Geography
Geography of New York State
Exercise 1 – REQUIRED
Adopt a County Assignment
Due September 6, 2012; late submission will be penalized.

INTRODUCTION: *There are 62 counties in NYS ranging from the urban counties of NYC to the agricultural counties of western NYS to the wilderness counties of the North Country. **Each student will "adopt" three randomly assigned counties.** These counties come from different areas of NYS. You will use them throughout the semester as the basis for regional topical comparisons.*
PURPOSE: *This exercise will acquaint you with your assigned counties and help you start building a regional comparison.*

Your counties are listed below. This is group_____.
(Note: The counties are selected by Prof. Grande and randomly assigned to students in class. Late registrants and students who miss the first class meeting must contact Prof. Grande for the assigned counties.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I ❤ NY

ASSIGNMENT: This exercise has TWO PARTS.

PART I.
Using the *Moon Handbook*, the *I LOVE NEW YORK* website (www.iloveny.com), the EPODUNK reference page (http://www.epodunk.com/counties/ny_county.html) and the county web sites by way of http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/ create a comparative geography of your three counties that includes all of the following. **Do this is chart format.**

1. **Location** of each county (a) within NYS (site and situation), (b) in relation to New York City and (c) in relation to each other.
2. A general description of each county's **physical characteristics** in terms of (a) area, (b) generalized landforms and (c) climate.
3. A general description of each county's **population** (head count and concentration). Be sure to use **2010 census** data not 2000 census data even though some sites have yet to update their information.
4. A statement of each county's general **economic situation** as portrayed by its web site or *Moon Handbook* entry. What are the **main activities** that employ people?
5. At least one **pertinent fact** (current or historical) **or trivia** that caught your interest. Does the county have a claim to fame? (Also see http://www.iloveny.com/About-The-State/Trivia-And-Facts.aspx).

PART II.
Go to the **Geography of NYS Course Page** via the Dept. of Geography's home page. From the **HANDOUTS** section, print a NYS map with county names. (There is a small practice map on page 2 of this exercise.) Then go to the NYS home page at **www.state.ny.us.** Click on **COUNTIES** next to the *"I Love NY"* logo **(http://www.nysegov.com/map-NY.cfm).** Locate your three assigned counties. (You can start by playing the "Guess the County" interactive game at the top right corner.)

Annotate the outline map as follows. *Remember to attach it to Part I.*

1. Outline and label your three counties in **black**.
2. Locate, mark with a **DOT** and label the **county seat** (governmental center) of each of your counties. See **http://countymapsofnewyork.com/index.html.**
3. Mark the location of the <u>City of **Albany**</u> (the state capital) with a **DOT** and label it.
4. Locate **New York City** (your home base) on the main map (not the inset map) and yellow-highlight the five boroughs.

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New York State
County Outline Map

New York City

J. Brownell 1975