



**A Geographer's View of Changing Landscapes
Course Introduction**
Prof. Anthony Grande
Hunter College-CUNY

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**SYLLABUS
Contact Information**

Postcards from America:
A Geographer's View of Changing Landscapes
GEOG 306.03 sec 01 and GEOG 705.09 sec 01

Instructor: Anthony F. Grande
Email: agrande@hunter.cuny.edu

- Office: Room 1032 North Building
- Telephone: (212) 772-5265 or 5266
- Mailbox: Geography Dept., Rm. 1006 North Bldg.
- Office Hours: Before and after class; also by appointment.
- Classroom: Room 1022 North Bldg.

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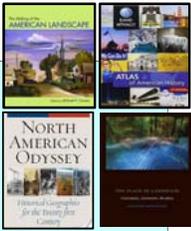
SYLLABUS: Books/Maps

G306 REQUIRED BOOKS (ugrad. students)
✓ Conzen, *The Making of the American Landscape*
✓ Rand McNally Atlas of American History

G705 REQUIRED BOOKS (grad. students)
✓ Conzen, *The Making of the American Landscape*
✓ Rand McNally Atlas of American History
+ Colten and Buckley, *North American Odyssey: Historical Geographies for the 21st Century* (for education/history MA programs)
+ Malpas, *The Place of Landscape: Concepts, Contexts, Studies* (for geography and other MA programs)

MAPS for All: Any folded road map of the United States. Any medium or large, up-to-date road atlas (post-2012) of the US and Canada

RECOMMENDED for All: Any regional geography book dealing with the US and Canada



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SYLLABUS: Objectives

- ✓ To learn about the physical and human geography of the United States and Canada.
- ✓ To relate its physical environment to the distribution and works of its people (location).
- ✓ To be aware its historical geography, especially the sequence of events that has influenced the visual appearance of the land.
- ✓ To understand the role of place and time in landscape development: the "story behind the scenery."
- ✓ To apply geographic principles and reasoning to what we see and to the changes landscapes have experienced over time using maps and other available resources.

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SYLLABUS: UGRAD Grading
(Graduate students see me at end of class)

- 1. Exams (75%)**
3 exams worth 25 pts each – All exams must be taken.
- 2. Road Trip Project (25%)** – No term paper
Required exercise worth 25 pts that will explore the human and physical landscape features found along a selected route in the US&C.
- 3. Extra Credit Options**
 - a. Take-home exercise for each exam.
 - b. Research paper (5 pages plus bibliography and illustrations) on a specific topic that have been pre-approved by me.
 - c. Landscape Analysis: In depth look at 5 landscapes from a list.
- 4. Class participation**
Can only benefit your grade
- 5. Late submission penalty**
 - A half-grade reduction will lower the earned score of any required work submitted after the due date.
 - Extra credit work will not be accepted after the due date

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SYLLABUS

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Content of all lectures, reading assignments and handouts.
2. Attend class lectures.
3. Take all exams and submit all required work for grading. Extra credit is optional.
4. Have access to the course Home Page via Geography Dept.'s web page.
5. Get approval of any topic for extra credit work.
6. Neat presentation of exams, required exercise and extra credit work.
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. Register with the AccessAbility Office to qualify for accommodation.

CALENDAR for Spring 2017
NOTE: Exam dates and work submission deadlines are subject to change.

- Tue., Jan. 31. First class meeting.
- Tue., Mar. 06 Tentative date of EXAM I
- Tue., Apr. 07 Tentative date EXAM II
- Apr. 10-18 Spring Recess. No classes
- Fri., May 12 Due date for required Road Trip project. Last day to hand in the pre-approved research paper.
- Tue., May 16 Last class lecture. Last day to hand in *Landscape Analysis* extra credit assignment.
- Fri., May 19 Study Day. No class.
- Tue., May 23 Final Exam 9-11 AM different time from our class sessions. Clear your schedule in advance. Do not make travel plans.

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ACCESSING COURSE MATERIAL

1. Access Geography Dept Home Page <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu> >Academic depts. >Geography <http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/cwpages.html>
NOT BlackBoard.
2. Click on Course Syllabi
3. Scroll down to our course number and click on the link.

Direct Link to Bookmark the Course Page:
http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog306.03_grande/index.html

ACCESSING COURSE MATERIAL

4. Access the links to get the material you wish to view or copy, including electronic handouts and PowerPoint lecture presentations.

Direct Link to Bookmark the Course Page:
http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog306.03_grande/index.html

List of Topics

Introduction

1. COURSE OVERVIEW

Landscape Analysis

2. LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT
3. PHYSICAL BASIS: Landforms, Climate, Glaciation, Water, Soils and Vegetation
4. HUMAN IMPRINT: People and their works

EXAM I (for all)

Regional Landscape Studies

5. NORTHLANDS
6. NORTHEAST COAST
7. MEGALOPOLIS
8. CANADA'S CORE AREA
9. AMERICA'S HEARTLAND
10. APPALACHIA and OZARKS
11. THE SOUTH
- EXAM II (just undergrads)
12. PLAINS and PRAIRES
13. MOUNTAINS and PLATEAUS
14. DESERT SOUTHWEST
15. PACIFIC NORTHWEST
16. HAWAII
- EXAM III (just undergrads)

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

❖ **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 **landscape** -- the "human imprint on the natural environment."

Studying Geography

The **Five Fundamental Themes of Geography** as developed by the NCGE and AAG help us to do this.

1. Location
2. Place
3. Movement
4. Region
5. Human-Environment Interaction

Five Fundamental Themes of Geography

Source: Michigan Geographic Alliance

FIVE FUNDAMENTAL THEMES

1. LOCATION
 Addresses the question: **Where?**
 Absolute location = site
 Relative location = situation

2. PLACE
 Addresses the **special features** of location that make it **unique**.
 Includes size and physical and human characteristics (landscapes)

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Five Fundamental Themes

3. MOVEMENT
 Addresses the idea of **mobility** to, from and within a location. Also applies to **change**.
 Studies the movement of people, goods and ideas.
 Analyzes diffusion (or spread) from a point of origin.

4. REGION
 Addresses the **unifying factors** of location.
 Identifies similar characteristics.
 Studies formation and change over time.

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Five Fundamental Themes

5. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION
 Addresses the **relationships** within locations between people and the physical environment.
 Includes aspects that create/shape a landscape:

- Perception
- Technology (tools)
- Decision making (location and land use)
- Impact

As well as what is left behind (visual aspects): **IMPRINT**

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Five Fundamental Themes

To the Five we add a sixth aspect:
Earth Science tradition of Geography
 Addresses the processes, cycles and systems that constantly modify the natural world and therefore influence people and their works.

These include:

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

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GEOGRAPHIC METHODOLOGIES

Geographers study the earth in a number of different ways.

<p>Time reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past • Present • Future 	<p>Viewpoints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical/Human • Topical/Regional • Descriptive/Analytical
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Geographic Methodologies

Geography of the Present
 Studies current conditions, interrelationships and happenings.

- Focuses on today.
- Provides the visible components of landscape study
- Goes back in time to set the scene.
- Evaluates the present for future interactions.

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Geographic Methodologies

Geography of the Past

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

- Emphasizes developmental processes.
- Studies change.

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Geographic Methodologies

Geography of the Future

Uses the knowledge gained from the past and present to make assumptions about the future.

What conditions will exist in 50 or 100 years?
How will things look at the end of the period in question? Will landscapes evolve?

➤ Regional, urban and environmental planning does this.

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Geographic Methodologies

Past, Present and Future

- ✓ are studied from different geog. points of view
- ✓ 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

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GOOGLE MAPS

<https://www.google.com/earth/>

- Using free **Google Earth** you can get a bird's eye view of present-day US and Canada.
- Zoom in on various areas of the continent.
The more you zoom in, the more detail you will see.
- Use "SEARCH, MENU, SATELLITE", "MAP" and "MAP-Terrain" options to see different aspects of the American landscape.
- To see a 3-D representation download the free Google Earth plug in.
- Also **Google Maps**: <https://www.google.com/maps/@40.768366,-73.9642476,19z>

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WHAT IS A REGION?

❖ **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.

➤ We will focus on "landscape regions."

All regions have 5 characteristics:

1. Location (an area on the earth)
2. Spatial extent (the area that can be measured)
3. Boundaries (the area can be enclosed; most are "fuzzy")

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REGIONS of the US and Canada

Regions can **overlap** and/or **blend** into each other.

Some regions know no political border.

Characteristics of a region may, can and do change over time.

Many regions are visually recognizable and can be distinguished from each other.

From Birdsall, *Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada.*

Regions

4. All regions also have Categorization:

- a) formal (or uniform)
- b) functional (or nodal)
- c) vernacular (or mental)

Vernacular or Perceptual (Mental) Region

The Midwest region is defined differently by people.

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(a) John H. Garland, ed., *The North American Midwest*. New York: Wiley, 1955. (b) John R. Sorenson and Jane McGugin, *Geography of the New World*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1981. and (c) Dea P. Stokley and J. Lewis Robinson, *The Anglo-American Realm*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1989.

ALSO
 Bible Belt
 Good neighborhood
 Rust Belt
 Long Island, NY

Regions

5. All regions have Hierarchical Arrangement

- a) major (includes smaller regions)
- b) minor (parts of larger regions)

Regions within regions within regions within regions.

Within each sub-region the appearance of the landscape varies somewhat making that area unique.

Hierarchy of Regions

Regions within regions within regions.

The State of Delaware, the Delaware shore and Rehoboth Bay Watershed are **smaller** regions.

The East Coast, the Mid-Atlantic area, the coastal plain and the Delmarva Peninsula are **larger** regions within North America.

Next Class

Landscapes