

**Geography of New York City Metro Area (Hunter College CUNY)
Geography 35700 (Undergraduate) / Geography 70957 (Graduate)**

Fall, 2015 Mondays 5:35-8:15PM (except 9/7,14; 10/12) Hunter North Rm. 1022

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Additional information about this course, required readings, and details on required walks will be located on the Department of Geography's web site:

<http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog357/index.html>

Brief description/purpose of course: This is a three hour, three credit course. The course satisfies 3/B of the GER. Urban geographic concepts, theory and methodology are applied to the New York City Metro area. New York is also distinguished from other cities. See schedule of topics at the end of this syllabus.

Recommended textbook: *The AIA Guide to New York* (5th edition) by N. White and E. Willensky Oxford University Press, 2010 ISBN# 978-0-19-538386-7 Scanned readings are also assigned.

Course objectives: Informed immersion in NYC is a principal objective of this class. You will learn by exploration and observation more than by media! The city is your laboratory to complement readings, lectures and discussion. Study assignments include keeping a journal of walking assignments as well as readings. **There is more walking than reading.** Field work will focus on the five boroughs of New York City. (*Students with difficulties in walking or using public transportation or who have phobias regarding unfamiliar neighborhoods should consider this before registering.*)

Student learning objectives: You should emerge from this class with enhanced appreciation and understanding of the entire city. You will learn to interpret the city's growth in terms of topography and transportation. You will become familiar with the city's changing demographic diversity.

You will co-lead a walk in an assigned neighborhood of the city gaining experience in oral presentation. You will explore and describe your own neighborhood in terms of the organizing concepts of the class. (See schedule of topics below.)

Course evaluation: Grading for this class is based on several expressions of comprehension.

1. 40% Leadership and oral-written presentation of a field experience in NYC: You will co-lead a field segment with another student on either **Saturday, November 7 or Sunday, November 15**. You are expected to attend both sessions unless work schedules cannot be adjusted. Field assignments will be made on the first day of class. More information on requirements for this presentation is discussed on the first day of class. (400 pts.)

2. 40% Final Project : Take home essay format that will require some field work in your own neighborhood. (400 pts.) Hard (paper) copy due on Monday, December 21 in classroom, 5:30-7:30pm. Earlier submissions may be left at the Geography Dept. office.

3. 10% Short answer quiz on lecture concepts and assigned walks: This focuses on lecture content through mid-October and all assigned walks. It will be given in late October and graded in class. (100 pts.)

4. 10% Class participation: This includes intelligent Q/A during lecture and discussion and contributions to assignments on migration and media. Students can also input to the class via email. (100 pts.)

Maximum grades will sum to 1000 points. Letter grade will follow CUNY standards.

5. Classroom review of a required walks: (Extra credit) You are the teacher for 20 minutes. These voluntary assignments will be made on the first and second day of classroom classes. Successful presentations raise grade by one level (example. B to B+ or B+ to A-)

Attendance will be taken in class. You will need to provide documentation if you miss the quiz and then take a makeup. A grade of IN (incomplete) will be given **only** in the most extraordinary circumstances and must be requested by one day before the official date of the final exam. Supporting written documentation will be required. Otherwise, a grade of 0 for the final will be assigned and averaged into the final course grade.

Classroom policies: Phones completely OFF and out of sight. Laptops OK for note-taking. The one quiz is closed book.

Hunter College statement on Academic Integrity: 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 CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations.

Schedule of topics, walks (by # on Dept. of Geography website) **and scanned readings:** (by author)

Date	Topic	Readings	Class Activities	Other Assignments (prior to class)
8/31	Orientation		Review Curriculum document on website; Field assignments; Assign reviews of Walks 1,2,3 (4,5,6,7,8?)	Suggest that walks 2-8 and visit to field area be done as early as possible during the semester
9/10 (Thursday)	Walk #1		Instructor led Walk 1	Visit chosen field area (by 10/19)
9/21	Topography	Palimgarten	Lecture, Discuss Walks 1,2,3 Assign reviews of Walks 4,5,6,7,8?	Walks 2,3 Visit chosen field area
9/28 10/5,19	Topography, Transportation, Technology	Abu-Lughod Chs 2,3,4,7,10 Sanjek Ch 1	Lectures, Discuss Walks 4,5,6,7,8	Walks 4,5,6,7,8 Engage field partner about walk

				by 10/19
10/26	Quiz Demography		Class time for field group organization	Assignment on Family migration history
11/2,9,16	Demography	Abu-Lughod Chs 4,7,10 Sanjek Chs 2, 10, Conclusion	Lectures, Review of Assignment on Family migration history Class time for field group organization	
11/7 (Saturday)	Student led walks		Walks in the Bronx and Queens 9am-5pm	
11/15 (Sunday)	Student led walks		Walks in Manhattan and Brooklyn 9am-5pm	
11/23, 30	Lines on the Land	Caro, Jacobs All chapters	Review student led walks Lectures;	
11/16, 23,30	Final Project		Questions on Final Project	Read structure of Final Project
12/7			Video Moses/Jacobs	
12/14	Geography of NYC in media		Discussion	Assignment on TV shows and movies set in NYC

12/21 5:30-6:30pm Last opportunity to submit paper copy of Final Project.