

**HUNTER COLLEGE-CUNY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

**GEOG 383.33 (Code 4756)/ GEOG 705.98 (Code 4755)**

**THE GEOGRAPHY OF LONG ISLAND:**

*Geographic Issues Facing Long Island, NY*

**INSTRUCTOR:** Anthony F. Grande

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**Office hours:** Before and after class and by appointment

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**Class sessions:** Monday evenings from 5:35-8:15 PM in Room 1022HN.

**COURSE:** The *Geography of Long Island* focuses on the geographic and environmental issues of the largest island off the east coast of the United States. The prerequisite is one GEOG, PGEOG or GEOL course.

**GOALS:** Geography is both a physical and social science. Knowledge of the basic concepts of earth systems is important for us to better explain and analyze human interaction with them. Present day Long Island, NY has been shaped by both its physical characteristics and the people who have settled and developed the island since the early 1600s.

The goals of the course are **(1)** to learn about the geography of Long Island – its physical environment, the distribution of its people and their activities, and the interrelationships between the people and the environment; and **(2)** to explore, navigate through, and use the geographic information available on the Internet, especially the information provided by the State of New York, City of New York, and Nassau and Suffolk counties.

**LIST OF TOPICS:**

1. Introduction
2. Physical Characteristics of Long Island
3. Historical Geography of Long Island
4. Settlement on Long Island
5. Population Issues
6. Environmental Issues
7. Planning for the Future

There is no text book on the geography of Long Island, NY.

The course will depend on web sites sponsored by the federal government, NYS, NYC, Nassau County, Suffolk County, non-profit organizations, private companies and other appropriate venues and suggested readings.

**RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL READING:**

Andersen, T., *This Fine Piece of Water: An Environmental History of Long Island Sound*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2002.

Bookbinder, B. *Long Island: People and Places, Past and Present*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, 1983

Fischler, S., *Long Island Rail Road*. St. Paul, MN: Voyageur Press, 2007.

Hinsdale, E.B., *History of the Long Island Railroad, 1834-1898*. New York: Evening Post Job Printing House, 1898. Reprinted as a Legacy Reprint by Kessinger Publishing, La Vergne, TN, 2010.

Isachsen, Y.W., et al, editors, *Geology of New York: A Simplified Account, 2nd edition*. Albany, NY: New York State Museum, NYS Geological Survey, 2000.

Van Diver, B.B., *Roadside Geology of New York*. Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing Co., 1994.

Weigold, M.E., *The Long Island Sound: A History of its People, Places and Environment*. New York: NYU Press, 2004.

Zuger, S., *Moon Handbooks: New York State, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* Berkeley, CA: Avalon Travel, 2010 (N.B.: The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (2003) by C. Bird has more complete coverage.)

**FORMAT:** This course will be conducted as a combination of lectures and seminars. Graduate students will be invited to select and focus on a geographic or environmental issue that is both of interest to them and relevant to the well-being of the residents of Long Island and lead a short seminar discussion of it.

**GRADING:** Grades are based on the following requirements:

**Two exams** (15 pts each = 30% of the grade),

**Five short write ups of geographic issues** facing Long Island residents (3 pages long plus citations discussing 1 physical, 1 historical, 1 population, 1 environmental, and 1 economic topic; 8% each = 40%)

**One term paper** that explores a current or potential geographic issue from a planner's or analyst's point of view (30%)

**Extra credit may be earned** for seminar presentations, documented individual field work and museum visits, and/or special research projects relating to the study of geography of Long Island.

There is a direct correlation between good attendance and good grades. Reading assignments supplement class lectures. Attendance is taken.

**OUTCOMES:** Upon the successful completion of this course, you will be able to relate the cultural landscape of Long Island to its physical characteristics, make informed decisions using geographic principles and spatial concepts, and navigate the Internet to find geographic information and maps of Long Island.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**1. You are responsible** for the content of all the lectures, reading assignments and class handouts. Assignments and handouts are distributed electronically.

**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 term paper or project must be approved in advance to make sure the topic is manageable. *Each student is to submit in*

*writing two proposals for the term presentation and I will select one* based on your written justification showing your interest in the topics proposed and an outline of major points to be covered (see calendar for date). 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, term 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. 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, term paper or term project. All work will be randomly searched using college-purchased search engines.

**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 SPRING 2011.**

**This class meets on Mondays from 5:35 – 8:15 PM in Room 1022HN.**

The Geography Department computer lab is located in room 1090B HN.

Mon., Jan. 31 - First class meeting.

Mon., Feb. 21 - President's Day – College is closed (**no class for us**).

**Wed., Feb. 23 - CUNY follows a MONDAY schedule (class for us).**

Mon., Apr. 11 - **Proposal for term paper due no later than tonight.**

Mon., Apr. 18 - Spring recess (**no class for us**).

Mon., Apr. 25 - Spring recess continues (**no class for us**).

Mon., May 02 - Semester resumes for us.

Mon., May 16 - Last lecture.

Mon., May 23 - Final exam; last day to turn in all work (tentative).