

SYLLABUS

Geography of New Jersey Fall 2009

Geography 450:331
Monday & Thursday: Period 3: 12:00-1:20
Lucy Stone Hall B267

INSTRUCTOR

Professor - Dr. David A. Robinson
Room B230, Lucy Stone Hall
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Office hours - Monday 2-3 PM, Wednesday 11-noon, & by appointment

OBJECTIVE:

This course will focus on the spatial dynamics of the physical and human phenomena that make up New Jersey's environments and places. Their characteristics; past, present and future, will be explored individually and in relation to one another.

TEXT (required):

Geography of New Jersey: the City in the Garden (2nd ed.) by Charles Stansfield

ADDITIONAL READING:

The Star Ledger: <http://www.starledger.com>
and other materials to be made available during the course of the semester

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Three exams - Each is 19% of your grade
Essay - 20%
In-class assignments – 10%
Photo assignment - 8%
Web assignment - 5%

GRADING:

A: 90-100% B+: 87.5-89.9 B: 80-87.4% C+: 77.5-79.9% C: 70-77.4% D: 60-69.9 F:<60%

COURSE INFORMATION VIA THE WEB

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

CLASS POLICY

Extra credit: Not available under any circumstances.

Exams: Every effort must be made to take exams when scheduled. No make-up exams will be given without a documented excuse. Those with valid excuses will be allowed to take exams in a method determined by the instructor.

Out of class assignment and essay: Each must be submitted on the day it is due. A late assignment will automatically lose 1 point for each day it is late. The essay will lose 2 points for each day it is late.

Attendance: You are expected to attend class; attendance is one of the best prognosticators of a student's performance.

In-class assignments: Over the course of the semester there will be 12 "low impact" in-class assignments. They will be completed in class on the day they are distributed. Each will be worth 1% of your grade. You may earn up to the full 12%, with the last two of these percentage points considered bonus points beyond the 10% of the course grade for these assignments. There will be NO opportunity to make up any of these assignments for any reason.

Tardiness and Leaving Class Early: Rutgers is geographically challenged. Students must commute considerable distances between classes and I am aware of problems that students encounter in trying to come to class on time. I recognize that some tardiness is inevitable; HOWEVER, habitually arriving in class late and departing

early is disruptive and rude. Please make every effort possible to get to class on time, and once there, STAY. If you must leave early, make sure to sit as close to one of the doors and depart as unobtrusively as possible.

Personal Conversation: It is rude and disruptive to engage in personal conversation during class. Students who persist in this disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the class. Refusal to leave class once requested will result in disciplinary action at the Dean's level. **Cell phones should be turned off while class is in session.**

Academic Integrity: The Geography Department fully endorses a no-tolerance cheating and plagiarism policy. If you are caught cheating, you may be failed and disciplinary action may be taken.

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
<i>Chapters are from Stansfield book</i>		
<i>Touring New Jersey</i>		
9/3	New Jersey 101	Chapter 1
<i>Geographic Perspectives</i>		
9/8, 10, 14	New Jersey by region	Chapter 14
<i>Physical dimensions</i>		
9/17, 21	Geology and landforms	Chapter 2
9/24, 28	Weather and climate	
	WEB ASSIGNMENT DUE 9/28	
10/1	Mapping NJ: guest: Mike Siegel, Geography Dept. Cartographer	
10/5	EXAM	
<i>Historical insights</i>		
10/8	Human ecology	Chapter 4
10/12	Early European settlement	Chapter 5
10/15	Cultural landscape	Chapter 6
<i>Who we are, where we live</i>		
10/19	Biogeography	
10/22	Coastal landscapes: guest: Rosana Grafals-Soto, Geography Dept. graduate student	
10/26	Population characteristics	Chapter 7
	PHOTO ASSIGNMENT DUE 10/26	
10/29	Race and ethnicity	Chapter 8
<i>Human landscapes</i>		
11/2	Transportation	Chapter 9
11/5	EXAM	
11/9	Agriculture	Chapter 10
11/12	Business and industry	Chapter 11
11/16	Recreation and tourism	Chapter 12
<i>Linkages</i>		
11/19	Pinelands	
11/23	Managing our environment	Chapter 3
	ESSAY DUE	
<i>Past, present and future perspectives</i>		
11/30	Lessons from the past	Chapter 13
12/3	Current events	
12/7	What lies ahead?	
12/10	Jerseyanna	
12/21 (noon)	EXAM (held in LSH B267)	