

✓ **REMINDERS**  
 May 11: **Required Economic Ex. 19 is due.**  
 May 15: Last class lecture.  
**May 18: Final Exam from 11:30AM-1:30 PM will include a take-home question due May 18.**  
 Optional for grading and extra credit exercises are due no later than May 18.  
**Until May 17: Course Evaluation Period open.**  
 See your Hunter email for instructions from the College.

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**URBAN NATURE OF NYS**  
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**Settlement Evolution**

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**Worth repeating:**  
 The present-day pattern of population distribution is a result of many factors, including:  
 ✓ physical environment  
 ✓ human interaction with it  
 ✓ economic variables as jobs, services and functions that cluster people.

**Urban Landscape Development**

**Once a site is selected based on the needs of the urban function:**

1. A hierarchy of place **develops**.
2. Settlement then **evolves** over time.
3. The hierarchy of trade centers (place) **changes**.

**Why the evolution and change?**  
*Because they are foci of economic activity and the economic activity itself evolves over time and in many cases follows a sequence of development.*



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**Urban Geography Refresher**  
 Cycle of Urban Landscape Development

1. **Creation - initial reason**; other functions appear and change over time
2. **Growth** – a “pull factor” draws people and businesses; need for service providers fuels growth
3. **Stagnation** – **growth slows**; area passed over with changes in function or by advances in technology
4. **Demise** – jobs disappear, **population leaves**, urban functions cease to exist, need for service is less; tax base is reduced or vanishes; disrepair is evident.
5. **Resurgence** – **rehabilitation** of run-down areas; **gentrification**; **new functions appear** and begin to “pull” people in again; new uses of space.


**OPTIONAL EXERCISE 17 looks at Urban Sites within your counties.**

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**Urban Hierarchy:**  
 Growth of Trade Centers

❖ **Three criteria for urban growth.**

1. **Central Place** or **focal point** (node) - focus of human activity; provider/distributor of goods and services.
2. **Hierarchy of Use** - based on the number and complexity of urban functions present.
3. **Sphere of Influence** or **size of the service area** - surrounds the central place; is **both serviced by** the central place and is **tributary to** the central place.




**Numerous lower order places BUT only one NYC!**

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**The Nature of Small Town NYS**

**The morphology of the urban landscape is evident in small towns.**

- Documented by **historical sequence** of events.
- Influenced by the town’s **original site and situation and its initial function**.
- Influenced by **transportation routes** and the **location of commercial areas within and around it**.
- **Affected by “modernization”** more than large cities – some small towns may have been left behind or by-passed.



**Variables include:**

- terrain
- transportation pattern
- time of initial settlement
- orientation of its business district

**Examples include:**

- river landings
- crossroads
- railroad depots
- room for expansion
- relationship to surrounding area

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## Regional NYS Small Towns

- **Hudson Valley communities**
  - Settled early, river oriented, sloped, compact, narrow streets, many with irregular patterns
- **Central and Western communities**
  - Settled later, grew along overland routes, level land, room for expansion, grid street pattern
- **Northern communities**
  - Settled last, valley oriented in rugged terrain, elongated street layout along main road, far from major transportation routes, limited options for growth

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## Generalized Example of Settlement Morphology

1. **Original site:** Crossroads
2. **Railroad station built south of crossroads:** town grows to south
3. **Strip mall development west of crossroads:** town grows westward
4. **Town expands into empty area:** town fills southwest quadrant between strip mall and railroad station

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## Coxsackie: Morphology of a Riverside Settlement

1. **Original site:** River Landing
2. **Major road is half-mile inland because of slope:** town fills gap between river and road.
3. **Railroad parallels road and locates a depot further inland:** town moves inland and ignores riverside roots.
4. **NYS Thruway on-off ramp built further inland:** commercial establishments focus on travelers.
5. **Resurgence:** town rediscovers its riverside roots; urban renewal of riverfront area.

Greene Co.; on Hudson River

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## Examples of Settlement Morphology

Expansion and orientation influenced by **automobile use.**

Oneida Co.; crossroads

Wyoming Co.; crossroads + railroad

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## RECAP: Cycle of Urban Landscape Development

1. **Creation** - initial reason
2. **Growth** - "pull factor" draws people and business
3. **Stagnation** - growth slows; area passed over
4. **Demise** - jobs disappear, population leaves ("push" factor)
5. **Resurgence** - rehabilitation; rebirth; new reason

The cycle happens everywhere. Resurgence can occur earlier or later in the cycle based on historic, economic and political circumstances.

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