

GEOG 35700/70957 Geography of New York City and Vicinity  
Spring 2021

**Course Information:**

- GEOG 35700/70957 Geography of New York City and Vicinity
- Pre-requisites: GEOG 10100 or GEOG 15000 or permission of instructor
- Lectures, readings, field projects, research project

**Contact Information**

- Professor Ines Miyares
- [imiyares@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:imiyares@hunter.cuny.edu) (best way to contact)
- Appointments via Zoom by appointment only

**Course Materials**

- Selected readings listed on Blackboard site

**Course Description**

An assessment of the role that geography has played, historically and in the present day, in the development and the functioning of the NYC Metropolitan Area. Aspects of the region's physical site and situation, its political, social and economic structures, including changing land use, population distribution, transportation patterns and environmental concerns, along with the techniques of studying them geographically, will be discussed. Active fieldwork required.

**There are 4 field projects. If you do not feel comfortable doing them live, or if we go into lockdown again, or if you have accessibility challenges, field projects can be completed via Google Earth. Details on Blackboard.**

**Learning outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe and explain how a set of cities and small towns across five counties consolidated and emerged as the largest city in the United States
- Explain and give examples of how the natural environment has impacted the infrastructure of the city and how people have changed the natural environment to expand settlement and create a new land use
- Explain and give examples of historical and contemporary immigrant communities and describe immigrant landscapes
- Explain, be able to distinguish between, and give examples of redevelopment and gentrification in New York City
- Discuss concerns about sustainability in terms of food, water, housing, and transportation
- Critically discuss, verbally and in writing, these examples, as well as academic research that focuses on these examples

**Course Requirements (35700):**

Reading Responses	20% (see Blackboard for requirements)
Field Projects	50% (see Blackboard for requirements)
Independent research paper	30% (see Blackboard for requirements)

**Course Requirements (70957):**

Reading Responses	20% (higher expectations)
Field Projects	40% (higher expectations)
Independent research paper	30% (see Blackboard for requirements)
Oral Presentation	10% (See Blackboard for requirements)

**Grading and Other Essential Information:**

- There will be significant deductions in points given for late assignments. No points will be given for an assignment submitted more than two weeks late unless you have given me an *excellent* excuse.
- ***I do not give incompletes.*** The only students who will be eligible to request a grade of Cr/NC at the end of the semester are those who have completed **ALL** assignments in a ***timely manner*** (that is, each one ***on its due date!***).
- If a documentable emergency situation arises that may result in the late submission of an assignment, please let me know as soon as possible via email.
- Email Policy: I do check my email regularly and will respond promptly until 9 pm. I expect professional respectful communication via email

**Hunter College Policy 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 the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

I will run your work through SafeAssign. If there is clear evidence of plagiarism, I will give a zero on the assignment and will notify the Dean of Students. We will discuss appropriate citation and bibliographic formats early in the semester.

**ADA Policy**

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 E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230. If you have a documentable disability or condition that makes it

impossible to complete an assignment as written, please contact me immediately so an alternative can be arranged.

### **Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct**

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose ([jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry ([colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123. CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct

Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

- Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
- If changes are made to the syllabus, I will notify you via email through Blackboard. It is essential that you have your correct email linked to your Blackboard account and that you check your Hunter or other Blackboard-linked email regularly. Bounced emails will not be an acceptable excuse for not being aware of changes or any other communications to the class.

Week 1: Overview of course. Pre-European physical and human landscapes.  
Readings listed on Blackboard

Week 2: Pre-consolidation history. Readings listed on Blackboard.

*Field project #1 due-Exploring your neighborhood. Details on Blackboard.*

Week 3: Transportation historical geography—how the bridges lead to consolidation. Readings listed on Blackboard

Week 4: Public health and changes in housing regulations. Readings listed on Blackboard

*Field project #2 due-Take the “A” Train. Details on Blackboard.*

Week 5: Applying the “garden city” model to New York, and other 20<sup>th</sup> Century changes. Readings on Blackboard

***Research paper topics and 1-page proposal due. Details on Blackboard.***

Week 6: Robert Moses’ New York. Readings on Blackboard

*Field Project #3 due-Comparing and Contrasting “garden city” developments. Details on Blackboard.*

Week 7: Immigration I—transforming the landscape. Readings on Blackboard

Week 8: Immigration II-transforming the landscape. Readings on Blackboard

*Field Project #4 due-Comparing and Contrasting Chinatowns. Details on Blackboard.*

Week 9: Gentrification and Redevelopment I. Readings on Blackboard.

Week 10: Gentrification and Redevelopment II. Readings on Blackboard

*Field Project #5 due-Neighborhood Transformations. Details on Blackboard.*

Week 11: Sustainability I-Food. Readings on Blackboard

Week 12: Sustainability II-Water. Readings on Blackboard

Week 13: Environmental Justice. Readings on Blackboard

Week 14: Graduate Student Presentations

Research papers due May 24<sup>th</sup> in lieu of final exam.