



**Geog 101 – Introduction to Geography
Nassau Community College
Fall 2019**

Instructor: Michael Paluzzi, ABD
Office Mailbox: Department of History, Geography, Political Science Office – Building G-257
Telephone: 860.227.7562 - Cell - please no crank calls or late night calls to say ‘hi’
E-mail: michael.paluzzi@ncc.edu
Time: MW 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm
Room: 249 G Building
Credit Hours: 3
Office Hours: Before or after class
Class Website: <http://www.patientspeak.com/webct/geog101> - course documents will be available here

NOTE: SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON TEXT MESSAGING:

There is a zero tolerance policy for texting during class. It is disturbing, disrupting and disrespectful both to the instructor and to students as well. As per this policy, by texting in class, a student accepts the consequences of being dismissed from class and being marked absent for that day. There will be no first or second warnings. Immediate dismissal will follow.

Course Objective:

Geography is a field of study that investigates the surface of the earth as the living environment of human activity. The purpose of this course is to introduce principles, concepts, and methods that contemporary geographers employ in order to study interactions between the physical environment and human population. The main traditions of geography are examined through elementary physical geography, human-environment relations, and location theories at a variety of scales. Examples are drawn from the various regions of the world. Upon completion of the all course work, students will be able to explain basic geographic concepts and demonstrate how geographic data can be collected and analyzed for decision-making.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will demonstrate competency in the following learning outcomes:

Social Sciences:

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methods geographers use to explore social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of major concepts, models and issues in geography.

Critical Thinking: Students will be able to identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments as they occur in their own and others’ work, and develop well-reasoned arguments.

Global Awareness: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the historical development, social and cultural traditions, and political and economic transformations of one or more non-Western societies

Required Materials

Text: Arthur Getis, Judith Getis, & Jerome D. Fellmann,
Introduction to Geography, Custom Edition, Boston: McGraw Hill. Available in NCC Bookstore

Colored Pencils/Pens – for clothing exercise

Exam Totals:	Midterm	100	20%
	Final Examination	100	20%
	Clothing Exercise	100	20%
	Virtual Vacation Assignment	100	20%
	In Class Assignments	50	10%
	Attendance/Participation	50	10%
	Total	500	100%

Grades for the Course: No extra credit assignments are possible.

100 – 90% = A	89 – 86% = B+	85 – 80% = B	79 – 76% = C+	75 – 70% = C
69 – 65% = D+	64 – 60% = D	<59% = F	W – Withdrawal	I - incomplete

Course Policies:

Attendance

1. Please note, attendance for lecture is **required**. Unexcused absences will not be allowed. The equivalence of one weeks' worth of classes is allowed without penalty, regardless of the reason, will be permitted. (Winterim/Summer courses allow one absence – beyond one, the following deductions occur.) Absences beyond a weeks' worth **will incur a five (5) point grade penalty for each absence (starting with the first) from your attendance grade**. Absences beyond 3 weeks of class will result in a five point penalty for each absence from **YOUR FINAL COURSE AVERAGE**.
2. Please be prompt, tardiness is both rude and disruptive. Continual tardiness (greater than four) **will incur a 1 percentage point final grade penalty for each late arrival – starting with the first late arrival**. You are tardy once attendance has been taken. You will be considered absent if you arrive more than 15 minutes late for any one class period. Also, each late arrival will result in a 3 point deduction from your attendance grade.
3. Late arrivals and early departures will be noted. Late arrivals are a disruption to the class and should be avoided when possible.
4. In the event of bad weather, consult local television stations, radio stations or campus website regarding cancellation of classes. **In the event of school cancellation, all assignments or scheduled exams will be held the next class period – so be prepared.**

Exams/Assignments

5. Examination 1 and 2 will consist of multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, short answers questions, short essay and/or fill in the blank questions. The final exam will be the same format as the previous two exams; however the final exam will have questions taken directly from the multiple choice and short answer questions found on the first two examinations. The cumulative material will be drawn directly from the previous exams, however the questions may take on a different format (i.e. a multiple choice question may become a fill in the blank). It's vital to know the actual answer, not just the multiple choice answer. There will be more information regarding this near the end of the semester.
6. Make-up exams will be scheduled only in the event of extreme illness, exam or other extraordinary circumstance. Anyone who will miss an exam must notify me in **advance** of the exam date and time. **Failure to notify the instructor in advance and/or provide documentation** regarding the absence will result in a 0 for an exam. Make-up exams are short answer, fill-in blank and essay. **All students are strongly encouraged to take all exams at the scheduled time.**
7. Students arriving late for exam or quiz dates will NOT be allotted extra time. Late arrivers must hand in their exam when the rest of the class does. **NO EXTRA TIME WILL BE GIVEN**. Quizzes will be completed 10 minutes after the beginning of class. No additional time can be allocated for late arrivals.
8. **Any student arriving for an exam after the first student has completed the exam will NOT be allowed to take the exam. Please arrive on time for your exams.**
9. **Students may not leave the classroom during an exam. Any student leaving the classroom during an exam will be assumed to have completed the exam and no additional time will be allotted.**
10. Dates of assignments and examinations are given on the attached pages. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. **Late assignments will not be accepted**. Assignments must be turned in directly to me at the beginning of class or during office hours prior to the class period they are due. **Do not leave any assignment in a mailbox or under a door or on a desk. If an assignment is not handed into me directly, you can assume it was not received.**
11. **Unless specifically told to do so by the professor, electronic versions of assignments are NOT accepted.** Any assignments emailed to the instructor will not be graded, and will not be considered to be turned in until a paper format is received by the instructor.
12. **In Class Writings** – Periodically I will assign questions that students must answer in class. These writings may come from lecture, videos, handouts or other topics. Students are responsible for answering all questions as they are assigned. The writings may also appear on an upcoming exam and cannot be made up.

Grades

13. **Course grades are not given in this class. That is not to say students will not receive a grade upon completion of this course - each student receives the grade they EARN as a result of completing the assignments and exams.**
14. **Grades are non-negotiable; the grade you receive will be the grade you earned. Every effort is made to keep the student aware of their progression throughout the semester. If at any time you have questions surrounding your grades, please see me before or after class. If you need a certain grade to maintain your scholarship, avoid academic probation, transfer, or to keep Grandma writing you checks each semester, it is the students responsibility to ensure you are**

meeting your goals. If you are not happy with your progression, you must see me early in the semester, so we can attempt to rectify the situation.

15. Grades will **NOT** be discussed or conveyed via e-mail. If you have a question about your grade, please see me before or after class and we can discuss your grades in private.
16. Grades for the course are determined from the percentage of total points of your scores on midterms, the final exam, quizzes and class exercises. The final grades will be based on the score/grade scale above.
No extra credit assignments are possible.
17. I encourage you to contact me outside of class for further help. The office hours shown above are times when I will generally be available. However, to ensure that I will not be meeting with another student, I suggest that you make an appointment to see me, even during my office hours.

Academic Dishonesty

18. **Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. DO NOT DO IT.** Plagiarism is an extremely serious offense. You **CANNOT** use someone else's written words without properly quoting the material and providing the appropriate citation; you **CANNOT** paraphrase someone else without citing them. It is virtually impossible to download material from the Internet, paste it into your answer, and not get caught.
 1. Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - i. Cheating on examinations.
 - ii. Plagiarism, i.e.: the use of words or ideas of others, whether borrowed, purchased or otherwise obtained, without crediting the source.
 - iii. Submitting work previously presented in another course.
 - iv. Willingly collaborating with others in any of the above actions which result(s) in work being submitted which is not the student's own.
 - v. Stealing examinations, falsifying academic records and other such offenses.
 2. If the instructor deems that a student is guilty of cheating or plagiarism, the instructor may initiate disciplinary action through the Dean of Students, and/ or may:
 - i. Require that the student repeat the assignment or the examination.
 - ii. Give the student a failing grade for the assignment or examination.
 - iii. Give the student a failing grade in the course and deny the student continued access to the class.
 - iv. The instructor should advise the Dean of Students, in writing, of any of these actions.
19. I take plagiarism very seriously – **Not a semester goes by where I don't catch a student plagiarizing their work.** Students caught plagiarizing will be directed to the Dean of Student Affairs.
20. Evidence of academic misconduct in the preparation or submission of exercises, assignments or exams will be dealt with according to NCC's Student Conduct Code available at: <http://www.ncc.edu/About/Studentcode.htm>
21. Please do not test me on these policies – you have been warned.

Miscellaneous

22. Electronic Devices: Cell phones, beepers, and mp3 players do not have a place in the classroom. Please turn off all electronic devices before entering class. If your cell phone rings during class, I reserve **the right to answer it. Text messaging in class will result in a pop-quiz on previously covered material.** Any student using cell phones, beepers, calculators, mp3 players, cheat sheets or other unapproved material on an exam will received a 0 on the exam and will be sent to the Dean of Students office for further disciplinary action.
23. **** Please note: I reserve the right to subtract up to 5 percentage points from your final score for "lack of civility". I expect all students to behave in a courteous, adult fashion. A pattern of disruptive, disrespectful, and/or harassing behavior or your part – towards your fellow students or your professor – will result in a lower grade. Any type of disruption caused by a cell phone, pager or beeper or any electronic device may result in a lower grade in the class. Make sure and turn off ALL electronic devices before you enter the classroom. Really. ****
24. Recording of class lectures is not permitted without the consent of the instructor.
25. If you have questions, it is the student's responsibility to visit me in my office, or otherwise contact me. If you do not speak up, I can only assume that you understand the material. If you are having difficulty in this class, I urge you to come see me so that we can discuss how you might improve your understanding. We can look at your notes, review previous exams, or discuss study strategies. I am here to help you. Be forewarned, however, that if you perform poorly but fail to seek my help until the end of the semester there is little that I can do to help the situation.
26. It is the goal of the professor to not change the dates of any of the exams and assignments. We will adjust the material on the exam as necessary. The instructor will notify the class of any modifications to the class.

Disability Statement

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may have an impact on your ability to carry out the assigned coursework, I urge you to contact the staff at the Center for Students with Disabilities(CSD), Building U, (516) 572-7241, TTY (516) 572-7617. The counselors at CSD will review your concerns and determine to what reasonable accommodations you are entitled as covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All information and documentation pertaining to personal disabilities remains confidential.

Week of:	Tentative Schedule*
Sept 2nd	Syllabus Course Introduction Lecture 1 – Thinking Geographically
Sept 9th	Lecture 1 – Thinking Geographically continued
Sept 16th	Lecture 2 - Maps
Sept 23rd	Lecture 3 – Global Positioning Systems
Sept 30th	Lecture 4 – Physical Geography: Landforms
Oct 7th	Lecture 4 – Physical Geography: Landforms Exam 1
Oct 14th	Lecture 5 - Physical Geography: Weather and Climate
Oct 21st	Lecture 5 - Physical Geography: Weather and Climate
Oct 28th	Lecture 6 - Population Geography
Nov 4th	Exam 2 Lecture 7 - Cultural Geography
Nov 11th	Lecture 9 - Economic Geography
Nov 18th	Lecture 9 - Economic Geography
Nov 25th	Lecture 8 – Spatial Interaction
Dec 2nd	Lecture 10 – Political Geography
Dec 9th	Virtual Vacation Presentations (see separate handout) – if necessary
Dec 16th	Virtual Vacation Presentations (see separate handout) – if necessary
Dec 23rd	Last night of class

***Dates of lecture material may change slightly as the semester progresses – however assignment due dates and exam dates will not change.**

GEO101 – Fall 2019

Syllabus

By signing the line below, you are acknowledging receipt of Professor Paluzzi's GEO101 Course Syllabus for the Fall semester at Nassau Community College.

Tear off this page, print your name, sign your name and date the page and submit to Professor Paluzzi.

Print Name _____

Sign Name _____

Date _____