

# GEOGRAPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA

*GEOGRAPHY 265*

*SPRING 2004*

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## OVERVIEW

*The goal of the course is to demonstrate the general geographical principles of regional historical development, cultural evolution, and landscape analysis through the excellent example provided by the state of Pennsylvania ... that is, the course is about geography, using the example of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is one of the richest and poorest, one of the most diverse and most typical states in the Union. Through the great range of topics that Pennsylvania presents us we can come to understand how people settle a landscape, adapt to its particular environmental nature, bring their cultures and mix with their neighbors, grow food and extract resources, develop small and large industries, build cities, and let the whole land evolve into the complex mass of life and nature people now occupy.*

## CONTENT

A regional geography should address the lives, livelihoods, and landscape of the people who have lived in that place. We will approach Pennsylvania thematically, through the organization of a typical human geography textbook: what resources are available on the land, what people came to use those resources, how they adapted to that land, how people earn livings, how they entertain themselves, how their towns are laid-out, and so forth. The specific topics are listed in the outline, below.

## ORGANIZATION

The course has several components:

1. Lecture period is devoted to introducing new ideas, processing reading material and writings, discussion, and answering questions.

2. Readings will come from the several books and from handouts. The main text is *The Geography of Pennsylvania* (E. Willard Miller, Ed., Penn State Press), later in the semester we'll also use *Close-up*, (Grady Clay, University of Chicago Press) a breathless 1980's evocation of the urban landscape, as well as the state highway map and a few photocopied readings.
3. Expect a quiz or other brief writing every week on the material covered since the previous one. No make-ups, but I'll drop your lowest grade or two.
4. Two projects will be assigned. The first will be a brief report about some aspect of human use of the land (ball fields, highways, motels, corn fields), the second, a detailed analysis of one particular landscape, based on your own observation.
5. Three exams are scheduled (including the final). You will need to be able to use the ideas from the course (and not simply to remember the terms); we'll have lots of preparation for this before the first one.

## EVALUATION

Here are the projected grade weights. All grades are scaled against your colleagues, and rescaled at the end of the semester.

- Two hourly exams @ 15%.....30%
- Weekly quizzes & exercises ..... 15%
- Final exam .....25%
- Landscape projects.....20%
- Class participation..... 10%

## HELP

Please see me if I can give you advice on how to study, if I can guide you to books to help you, or if I can help clarify specific concepts. I am available in my office most MWF afternoons and TTh mornings, or you may make an appointment by e-mail or after class.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Topic	Readings ("Ch." in Geog. of Penna.)
21-Jan	Wed.	The study of geography: <i>Pennsylvania as an exemplary landscape</i>	Ch. 1
23-Jan	Fri.	Importance of physical landscape	Ch. 2
26-Jan	Mon.	<i>geology &amp; landform; soil; climate</i>	
28-Jan	Wed.	Population & immigration: <i>why people move; impact on the land</i>	Ch. 8
30-Jan	Fri.	<i>(No Class Scheduled)</i>	
2-Feb	Mon.	<i>Four waves of immigrants</i>	
4-Feb	Wed.	<i>settlement time / settlement place</i>	
6-Feb	Fri.	Demography: pattern; time	Ch. 7
9-Feb	Mon.	Traditional culture: principles of folkways	Ch. 9
11-Feb	Wed.	<i>the cultural landscape</i>	Clay pp. 11 - 37
13-Feb	Fri.	<i>housing</i>	Lewis (handout)
16-Feb	Mon.	<i>language &amp; food</i>	
18-Feb	Wed.	<i>religion</i>	
20-Feb	Fri.	<b>EXAM I</b>	
23-Feb	Mon.	Economy	Ch. 18
25-Feb	Wed.	<i>principles: sectors; spatial organization</i>	Ch. 17
27-Feb	Fri.	Resources	Ch. 13
1-Mar	Mon.	<i>physical factors — what's there?</i>	
3-Mar	Wed.	<i>economic factors — what do we "need"?</i>	
5-Mar	Fri.	Agriculture: physical & economic factors	Ch. 12
8-Mar	Mon.	<i>no class scheduled</i>	
10-Mar	Wed.	<i>trends &amp; evolution</i>	
12-Mar	Fri.		
15-Mar	Mon.	<i>break</i>	
17-Mar	Wed.		
19-Mar	Fri.	Manufacturing	Ch. 15*, 16*
22-Mar	Mon.	<i>history of manufacturing</i>	
24-Mar	Wed.	<i>patterns of industrial location</i>	

26-Mar	Fri.	Transportation	Ch. 14*
29-Mar	Mon.	<i>history of transportation</i>	Clay pp 85 - 126
31-Mar	Wed.	<b>EXAM II</b>	
2-Apr	Fri.	Recreation, tourism	Ch. 11
5-Apr	Mon.	<i>sports</i>	
7-Apr	Wed.	Environment: evolution of impacts and concern	Chs. 4*, 6*
9-Apr	Fri.	<i>Pennsylvania's environmental problems</i>	Marsh (handout)
12-Apr	Mon.	Urban geography	Ch. 19
14-Apr	Wed.	<i>the pre-industrial city; the 19<sup>th</sup> Century city</i>	Clay pp 38 - 84, 127 - 142
16-Apr	Fri.	<i>suburbanization</i>	Ch. 20; Clay pp 143 - 181
19-Apr	Mon.	Post-industrial landscapes: <i>education &amp; information sectors</i>	
21-Apr	Wed.	<i>amenity communities; retirement</i>	
23-Apr	Fri.	Regions of Pennsylvania	
26-Apr	Mon.	Pennsylvania within the nation — <i>culture</i>	
28-Apr	Wed.	<i>politics; economics</i>	Ch. 10
30-Apr	Fri.	The lessons of geography	
3-May	Mon.	Review	

\* These chapters cover important material ... at *great* length. Read “efficiently”.