

THE GEOGRAPHY OF NEW JERSEY: COURSE SYLLABUS

This syllabus reflects the special circumstances and requirements brought about by the Covid-19 crisis. Changes to the syllabus and to the content of the course may be necessary as that situation continues to evolve.

GEOG 16241: SPRING 2021
MONDAY/WEDNESDAY, 3:30-4:45
WEBEX LOG IN:

<https://rowan.webex.com/meet/federmanr>

INSTRUCTOR/CONTACT INFORMATION

Richard Federman

Lecturer, Department of Geography, Planning & Sustainability
Instructor's Email: federmanr@rowan.edu
Instructor's Cell: 215.876.5891

OFFICE HOURS

Please feel free to email me at any time with questions, or to arrange a private conversation via WebEx.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is a broad, fast-paced introduction to our state. The course is divided roughly into halves focusing on the physical and human geography of New Jersey. Students will learn through lecture, videos and activities about the important physical processes that have shaped New Jersey, and the key historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors and trends that have defined the state over the past two centuries and beyond.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through active participation in this course, including participating fully in class assignments, discussions and activities, students should acquire, develop, and/or build upon the following:

1. An understanding of the physical processes that create the unique environment found in New Jersey.
2. A grasp of the relationship between people and the land in New Jersey.

3. An appreciation of the fascinating history of our state.
4. A familiarization with key factors that have influenced New Jersey's human geography, including transportation, economics, and culture.
5. A basic understanding of the key environmental issues facing New Jersey, and ways in which they are being managed.

COURSE MATERIALS

There are no materials that need to be purchased by the student for this class. All course materials – including slide shows, additional readings, study guides and assignments will be provided to you by the instructor.

ONLINE COMPONENT

This course will be supplemented by a class Canvas web page. Lecture materials including the four Power Point presentations, study guides and assignments will be posted to the class Canvas site. You are responsible for accessing and utilizing the class materials posted on the Canvas site.

EMAIL

Your official Rowan email is an essential form of communication in this course. You are expected to check your email every day, in case of any announcements or other urgent course information. Email is my preferred form of communication for any course or topic questions, or any issues that arise during the semester. I prioritize student emails and generally aim to respond in less than one business day (<24 hours during the work week, perhaps longer on the weekend or other announced period).

Please feel free to contact me with any queries: federmanr@rowan.edu

COURSE STANDARDS

Students are expected to be attentive and respectful of others in the class.

I do not require but will strongly encourage you to turn your camera on during the WebEx meetings!

Academic integrity is paramount. Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. According to Rowan University policy, students committing any act of academic dishonesty may fail the course, be suspended from the university, or both.

WORKING WITH CLASSMATES

Below is a list of what you can and cannot do with respect to collaboration on an assignment.

Permissible

- a. helping each other research answers to questions
- b. bouncing ideas off one another for thought/opinion questions

Not Permissible

- a. handing in one assignment with multiple names on it
- b. submitting answers identical to a classmate, particularly for thought or opinion questions
- c. copying an electronic file from a classmate

UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICIES

Important information regarding Rowan's academic and classroom policies is available on the Provost's web site:

http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/conduct_OfficeofTheProvostRowanUniversity.htm

GRADING SCALE

Grades on various course assessments and final grades for the course will adhere to Rowan's standard grading scale which is summarized below:

A (94-100%), A- (90-93%)
B+ (87- 89%), B (83- 86%), B- (80- 82%)
C+ (77- 79%), C (73- 76%), C- (70- 72%)
D+ (67- 69%), D (63- 66%), D- (60- 62%)
F (<60%)

GRADING PROCEDURE – WEIGHTS OF VARIOUS COURSE EXERCISES

Exams (4 – I drop the lowest score)	50%
Workshops	20%
Project	10%
Maps	10%
Discussion Board	5%
Attendance	5%

DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS COURSE EXERCISES

EXAMS

There will be an exam at the end of each of the four units we cover this semester. You will take the exams online, and they will consist of multiple choice questions based on the material covered in the slide shows and class lectures.

I will drop your lowest exam grade.

I will provide slide notes on Canvas to help you prepare for the exams.

Tentative Exam Due Dates:

Exam #1	Exam #2	Exam #3	Exam #4
February 21 st	March 21 st	April 11 th	Finals Week

WORKSHOPS

We will have 4 workshops/assignments over the course of the semester relating to topics from the lectures. The workshops are found on our Canvas site. Completed workshops should be submitted as attachment on our Canvas site.

Tentative Workshop Due Dates:

Workshop #1	Workshop #2	Workshop #3	Workshop #4
February 10 th	March 10 th	March 31 st	April 28 th

MAPS OF NJ

Each student will prepare two (2) detailed, hand-drawn maps of the state using blank maps I provide. One map should focus on the physical geography of the state, including (but not necessarily limited to) topography, water bodies, forests, etc. The other map will try to capture the human geography of New Jersey. Cities & towns should be included, perhaps county lines, and whatever else you choose to tell the story. The due date for the maps is February 28th.

CLEAN UP PROJECT

Each student will take part in a “clean-up” or some other environmentally/ecologically minded activity within New Jersey. You can work individually or in small groups, based on your own comfort level. Your efforts should be documented with pictures and/or videos, and you will make a short

presentation to the class describing what you did to help make New Jersey beautiful!

DISCUSSION BOARD

In order to encourage online learning and interaction, I will post 7 Discussion Questions on our Canvas site. Each student will be asked to do two things – respond to the Discussion Question, and also post a response to a classmate's initial post. You must do both in order to receive full credit for that particular Discussion Question.

ATTENDANCE

This portion of your grade will be determined by the percentage of class WebEx meetings that you attend during the semester. Under the current configuration each student will be asked to attend a total of 14 class meetings.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS OUTREACH

Your academic success is very important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact me. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations.

The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-256-4234. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations.

ROWAN UNIVERSITY'S STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

Rowan University promotes a diverse community that begins with students, faculty, staff and administration who respect each other and value each other's dignity. By identifying and removing barriers and fostering individual potential, Rowan will cultivate a community where all members can learn and grow. The Rowan University community is committed to a safe environment that encourages intellectual, academic, and social interaction and engagement across multiple intersections of identities. At Rowan University, creating and maintaining a caring community that embraces diversity in its broadest sense is among the highest priorities.

Rowan University Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Reporting, and Title IX

Rowan University and its faculty and staff are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. Title IX makes it clear that sexual misconduct and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against protected categories such as race, national origin, etc.

University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct or harassment, to the University's Title IX Coordinator so that the appropriate resources and support options are provided. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct and harassment that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware.

If you are the victim of sexual misconduct or harassment, Rowan encourages you to reach out to these resources:

Confidential Resources: The Wellness Center, Winans Hall, 856-256-4333, www.rowan.edu/wellness

Non-Confidential Resources: Office of Student Equity and Compliance (OSEC), Savitz Hall 203, 856-256-5830 Public Safety, Bole Annex, 856-256-4911 Other reporting information is available here: go.rowan.edu/titleix