

Department of Geography
Geography 302: Geography of Maryland

Instructor: Dr. James C. Saku

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Office Hours: 8:00 -8:50 am M, 11:00-11:50 MW, 10:45-11:45 TR or by appointment.

Lecture Hours: TR 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

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Course Description

A geographic analysis of the state. Prerequisites: Geography 103 and 104.

Course Objectives

1. Identify the major physical, cultural and political regions of Maryland.
2. Examine the population and economic geography of Maryland.
3. Examine the role of selected governmental agencies in Maryland.
4. Provide an understanding of the problems confronting Maryland.

Learning Objectives

1. Students should demonstrate their understanding of the historical evolution of Maryland.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the physical and cultural landscape of Maryland.
3. Analyze the environmental problems of the Chesapeake Bay.
4. Identify regional economic and social problems in Maryland.
5. Write a descent term paper on any aspect of Maryland.
6. Demonstrate their awareness of problems confronting Maryland.
7. Demonstrate their awareness of the multitude of state agencies in Maryland.

Required Text

There is no required text for the course. The only textbook on the Geography of Maryland is out of print. As such, course materials will be obtained from several sources including the Internet. Students are required to use interlibrary loan, Research Port, and the few materials available in the library for their reading. A copy of the out of print text is on reserve for use by all students.

DiLisio, James 1983. Maryland: a geography. Westview Press, Boulder.

Other important materials in the library include:

1. Maryland Statistical Abstract, 2003 (2nd floor of the library). Reference, HA 421.M37.

2. Joseph Arnold & Anirban Basch, Maryland: old line to new prosperity. American Historical Press, Reference, HC107.K3A77. (2nd floor of the library).

Other periodicals include

1. Maryland Contract Weekly
2. Maryland Historical Magazine
3. Maryland Labor Market Dimensions
4. Maryland Report
5. Chesapeake Bay Magazine
6. Maryland Clipper

Academic Dishonesty

Note that academic dishonesty including plagiarism and cheating during examination is a serious offense and carries severe penalty. Refer to the *Pathfinder* for details. You automatically earn F grade in the class if you are involved in academic dishonesty.

Disruptive Student Behavior

Please refer to the [Pathfinder](#) and *Department of Geography Plagiarism Policy* on Blackboard for details.

Blackboard

To facilitate effective communication between the instructor and students the course is available on Blackboard site. You are required to visit the site frequently to check on announcements and deadlines. Course outline and assignments are posted on the site. For those of you who are not familiar with Blackboard, information will be provided to you in class. Your grades are available on grade book of Blackboard.

Policy

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and participate actively during class discussions. Attendance will be recorded and failure to attend classes will result in loss of marks. Your attendance grade will be based on the total number of days present over the expected number of days multiplied by 20. For example, if you were required to be in class for 24 days in the semester, and you were present for 24 days, your attendance grade will be $(24/24) \times 24 = 20$ points. Students are responsible for informing the instructor of their presence if they arrive after attendance has been taken.

Individual essays are to be submitted promptly on the due day. Late submission of term essays carries a penalty of 20 points per day for a maximum of 5 days. No essays will be accepted after the 5th day without a reasonable cause. A reasonable cause is defined as serious illness (doctor's report required) or tragedy within the family (a note from family member required).

It is expected that all written work will conform to high standards of grammar and style. **Bad grammar and style will be penalized in the grading of written work.** The Writing Center in Pullen Hall will be willing to review your work before you submit it to the instructor.

Cell phones and pagers

Cell phones and pagers should be turned off when you come to class. Answering cell phones or checking text messages in class is disrespectful to me and your fellow students. Exception is given to a certified EMT or fire responder. Please inform me ahead of time if you need to have your beeper active all the time because of your profession or special circumstances.

Grading

All tests will consist of multiple choice, short questions and answers and essays. Prior approval is required for missing an examination. No make-up examination will be granted if you fail to seek prior approval.

The final grade will consist of the following (These dates are tentative and subject to change)

Class attendance and participation	= 25 points
Group project (April 7 th and 9 th)	= 50 points
History Quiz (February 26 th)	= 50 points
Three quizzes	= 75 points
Paper Review (February 10 th)	= 50 points
Annotated bibliography (March 12 th)	= 50 points
Research paper: (April 30 th at 3:00 p.m.)	= 100 points
Mid-term (To be announced)	= 100 points
Final examination: (Thursday, May 14 th at 8:00 a.m. -10:30 p.m.)	= 100 points

Your final grade will be determined based on the total points accumulated over 600 points. The scale is as follows:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F < 60%

Annotated bibliography

Each student is required to use Research Port, an electronic information resource in the library to search for five journal or Internet articles on any topic on Maryland. While it is recommended that your articles cover a variety of topics, you can also limit the five

articles to one topic, i.e., all the articles may be limited to tourism in Maryland. Research Port may be accessed through <http://researchport.umd.edu>. You will need to be a registered user of Frostburg State University library in order to have access to Research Port.

Write an annotated bibliography on each of the articles and present hard copies of the articles and your work to me. This means you have to print the articles and present them to me. An annotated bibliography represents the highlights of the article, that is, a summary of the article. Usually, an annotated bibliography is about two paragraphs long. If you are in doubt of how to write an annotated bibliography, consult handout given in class. You need to follow the format of writing an annotated bibliography as provided in class. This usually includes but not limited to:

Title in bold:

Author:

Publisher or organization:

Date of publication:

Key words:

The purpose of this assignment is to help you start thinking of your research project for the class. It will also help you to understand how to use Research Port and improve your writing skills.

Paper Review

Each student is required to review and provide critical comments on the following article. The article will be provided in class. Your review should be limited to four pages. Personal comments about the articles are strongly recommended. The award of marks for the review will be determined by the quality of the review. The criteria will include a demonstrated understanding of the issue, critical appraisal, logic and clarity. There will be a class discussion on the review.

James Saku 2002. The boom and bust economy of Allegany County of Maryland. In **The Proceedings of the Joint Conference of the 10th Biennial Conference on Appalachian Geography and Geography Education and the West Virginia Council for the Social Studies**, Pipestem Resort, March 1-2.

Term Paper

Each student is required to select an essay topic related to the Geography of Maryland. The topic may be physical, economic or culturally oriented. Consult with the instructor if you are in doubt of your essay topic. Essays should be limited to 10 pages (typed doubled space). You are encouraged to build a strong bibliography from journals, periodicals and the Internet for your research essay. **Headings and sub-headings are strongly recommended.** You will lose marks if you do not use sub-headings.

Your paper will not be returned to you after grading. You may submit two copies if you want your graded paper returned to you.

The purpose of the project are:

- a. Provide students an opportunity to apply geographic concepts to the economic, social and physical issues in Maryland
- b. Familiarize students with current issues confronting Maryland
- c. Experience in data collection and writing of research essays
- d. improve the writing skills of students

Class Participation:

To promote class participation and discussion, students will be required to prepare for the following questions for discussion. It is important that students prepare sufficiently well to generate a lively discussion. Every student is required to participate in the discussion. Other current issues from the local newspaper will also be used for class discussion.

1. What are the most pressing issues facing Maryland? Do you think these issues are being addressed by politicians? What do you think should be done to make Maryland a better place for all?
2. There is a large regional disparity in economic development in Maryland. What is the nature of the problem and what can be done to promote regional equality? Do you know of any specific policies that the state of Maryland has adopted to promote regional equality?
3. Tourism and recreation have emerged as strong economic sectors in Maryland. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What can be done to promote tourism in Maryland? Are there specific governmental policies on tourism in Maryland?
4. The state of Maryland has been thinking of introducing slot machine gambling at selected locations to generate revenue. What are your personal opinions of this policy? Do you think it is the best way to generate revenue in the state? What other options are available to the state in generating revenue?

Course outline and weekly schedule (Tentative and subject to change)

1. Introduction to Maryland: The Mosaic of Maryland, Maryland's relative location (Megalopolis, Manufacturing belt, Appalachian)
2. The Physical Environment: Territorial coverage, Climate (temperature and precipitation), Climatic zones (highland, valley, central hills, metropolitan, oceanic), Soils and Vegetation

3. Physiologic Regions: The coastal plain, the Piedmont, The Appalachian Highlands
4. The Chesapeake Bay: origins, dimensions and characteristics of the bay, the degradation of the bay, Year 2020 Panel Chesapeake Bay Executive Council Report
5. Historical Analysis: Colonization (17th century), agrarian development (18th century), early urban industrial period (19th century)
6. Political geography: Evolution of counties, governmental system, levels of government – state and local, functions of the two levels of governments, urban and rural counties.
7. Population geography: historical overview, current trends and projections, ethnic composition, (regional concentration), socioeconomic characteristics.
8. Agricultural activities: Crops (truck farming, field crops, tobacco), livestock (poultry, dairying), Maryland agricultural land preservation program.
9. Fishing - aquaculture, oyster, crabbing.
10. Mining: historical and contemporary (iron ore and coal mining).
11. Manufacturing: nature and extent, regional distribution of industrial activities, problems.
12. Recreation and tourism: what is tourism? Purpose of tourism planning, importance of the industry, nature of tourism in Maryland
13. Transportation and communications: road, port and railways. The Maryland Department of Transportation Plan for the 21st century
14. Urbanization and urban problems: historical basis, current urban issues, urban sprawl, planned urban centers.
15. Planning in Maryland: what is planning and why planning? The 1992 Planning Act of Maryland -- visions, role of local government, planning departments (planning data services, local planning assistance, comprehensive planning, planning design service and administration, elements of comprehensive planning, Smart Growth.