

Master Syllabus
Department of Geography

GEOG 353: GEOGRAPHY OF INDIANA

Course Description

Geography of Indiana is an upper division course designed to provide a detailed treatment of the spatial aspects of both the physical and human environments of Indiana. While primary attention is given to the physiographic, climatological, cultural, agricultural, political and industrial processes, issues such as tourism, labor, migration, outdoor recreation and environmental problems are also addressed.

Course Objective and Rationale

Indiana is more than the sum of its parts, even though its many components often are considered separately. The objective of this course is, as a geographer, to synthesize many different approaches and place them in perspective with one another. This course introduces the major physical and cultural patterns of Indiana and presents the features that make the state a pleasant place to live. Some of the features in the state are difficult to recognize such as the topographic variability in the state while easier to see and understand are the patterns of agriculture, population manufacturing and transportation that reflect Hoosier character.

Course Content and Format

The content of this course will be in lecture format and local field trips as decided by the instructor. The students are responsible for the lecture and the assigned reading provided by the instructor.

Textbook

Since there are no books available for this course, the instructor will use the following websites and assign readings from them. The instructor will also provide handouts on the topics to be covered.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108211.html>

<Http://www.in.gov>

Handouts from “Indiana-the American heartland.” Ed. Edward Lyon and Lowell I. Dillon, Tichenor Publishing. (book out of print)

Method of Evaluating Student Performance

Two different methods of student performance will be used. First, students are evaluated on the basis of performance of four multiple choice and short answer exams worth 80 percent of your final grade. The final is not cumulative. Exam questions come from lectures and handouts provided by the instructor. The second method is based upon an essay type take home assignment based on the field trips which were conducted by the faculty member. Students are expected to choose one of the themes covered in the field trips. Students are expected to take photographs and collect artifacts to substantiate their views. This method of evaluation covers 20 percent of the final grade.