Instructor: Yankuic M Galvan  
  
yankuic@ufl.edu (preferred form of contact)  
Phone: (517) 802 8494  
Class Hours  
  T 5-6  (Tu 11:45 AM - 1:40 PM)  
  R 6  (Th 12:50 PM - 1:40 PM)  
Office Hours  
  To be scheduled  

Course description  
This is an introductory course to Economic Geography, a fascinating field that has evolved with contributions from a diverse array of disciplines and schools of thought. The course explores main research traditions and epistemological paradigms in the field, from the early German school of neoclassical location theory to contemporary topics on Globalization and Value Chain research grounded in relational perspectives. An attempt is made to present an integrated perspective of the field and to emphasize complementarities between its different "branches." The course’s main goal is to provide the student with conceptual and methodological tools to better understand human-environmental interactions.  

The course is offered at advanced undergraduate level, but the curious graduate student will have the opportunity to entertain deeper explorations of the topics.  

Objectives  
Students will learn the main conceptual frameworks and theories in Economic Geography to examine the relationship between socioeconomic processes and spatial differentiation, spatial distributions, and the spatial evolution of the economy. At the end of the course, students should be able to apply concepts and ideas from Economic Geography to better understand current trends in the world economy, economic inequality, and environmental degradation.  

Format  
The course is to be presented in lecture and seminar format. Class sessions (T) will follow a seminar format (R). Discussion will focus on concepts and problems raised in weekly readings that each student is expected to have read prior to each session. In addition, students are expected to present two short original papers.  

Evaluation  
Class participation. This refers to attending class, contributing to class discussions, raising questions and providing feedback during your peer presentations.  

Quizzes. Grades will be assigned, at least in part, on the basis of testing. Two quizzes will be applied during the semester to test your knowledge on foundational concepts taught in class.
Short papers. Two short papers will be required during the semester, each around 1000 words (1500 words for graduate students), not including references. You may choose whatever topic you want, but papers should be analytical and draw on relevant class themes. The second paper can be a continuation of the first paper.

Overall grades for the class will be determined as follows:
- Class participation: 10%
- Quizzes (2): 20% each
- Short papers (2)
  - Writing: 15% each
  - Oral presentation: 10% each

Grading

This course adheres to University of Florida’s grading policies.

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Attendance

Students are expected to be in class. You may miss one class during the semester for professional reasons (meetings, presentations, etc.), but beyond that, full credit toward class participation requires attendance at every class meeting. In class, students must not be distracted reading other materials (including laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, etc.).

Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 (Aug 22 & 24)
Course introduction: definitions and a brief history of Economic Geography

Readings

Week 2 (Aug 29 & 31)
Location theory I

Readings

Week 3 (Sept 5 & 7)
Location theory II
Readings

**Week 4** (Sept 12 & 14)
Agglomeration Economies

Readings

**Quiz 1 Sept 14**

**Week 5** (Sept 19 & 21)
Student presentations: short paper 1

**Week 6** (Sep 26 & 28)
Geographical Political Economy I. Capitalism and Uneven Development.

Readings

**Week 7** (Oct 3 & 5)
Geographical Political Economy II. Social Structures and the Spatial Division of Labor.

Readings

**Week 8** (Oct 10 & 12)

Readings

**Week 9** (Oct 17 & 19)
Globalization II. Dependency and the World Economy.

Reading

**Week 10 (Oct 24 & 26)**
Dispersion and Localization in the Global Economy

Readings (Read Storper and choose between Knox's or Dicken's chapters)

**Week 11 (Oct 31 & Nov 2)**
Understanding Globalization Through Value Chain Analysis

Readings

**Quiz 2 Nov 2**

**Week 12 (Nov 7 & 9)**
Integrating Perspectives in Economic Geography: Global Manufacturing

Readings (read Dedrick, choose between Moran's or Sutherland's paper)

**Week 13 (Nov 14 & 16)**
Integrating Perspectives in Economic Geography: The Rise of Global Retailing

Readings
Week 14 (Nov 21)
Integrating Perspectives in Economic Geography: Global Agri-Food Systems

Readings (read Humphrey, choose between Renting’s or Yu’s paper)

THANKSGIVING

Week 15 (Nov 28 & 30)
Student presentations: short paper 2.

Week 16 (Dec 5)
Course conclusions