

**Economic Geography
GEO 3502, LAS 3930**

FALL 2017

(Preliminary version, subject to changes)

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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](#).

Passing Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	S
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0

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

Allen, S.J. Economic Geography: The Great Half-Century in *The Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography*, edited by Clark, G.L., M.P. Feldman, and M.S. Gertler, 18-44. New York, Oxford University Press, 2000.

Week 2 (Aug 29 & 31)

Location theory I

Readings

Wood, A., and S. Roberts. 2010. *Economic Geography: Places, Networks, and Flows*. London; New York: Routledge. Ch 2. Traditional Location Theory.

Cronon, W. *Nature's metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. WW Norton & Company, 2009. Ch 2. Dreaming the Metropolis.

Week 3 (Sept 5 & 7)

Location theory II

Readings

Wood, A., and S. Roberts. 2010. *Economic Geography: Places, Networks, and Flows*. London; New York: Routledge. Ch 2. Traditional Location Theory.
Harrington, J.W., and B. Warf. 1995. *Industrial Location: Principles, Practice, and Policy*. 1st edition. London; New York: Routledge. Ch 2. Locating to minimize costs.

Week 4 (Sept 12 & 14)

Agglomeration Economies

Readings

Krugman, P. 1991. *Geography and Trade*. MIT Press. Ch 2. Center and Periphery.

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

Harvey, D. 1981. "The Spatial Fix – Hegel, Von Thünen, and Marx." *Antipode* 13 (3): 1–12.
Harvey, D. 1985. "The Geopolitics of Capitalism." In *Social Relations and Spatial Structures*, 128–63. Critical Human Geography. Palgrave, London.

Week 7 (Oct 3 & 5)

Geographical Political Economy II. Social Structures and the Spatial Division of Labor.

Readings

Harvey, D. 1973. *Social Justice and the City*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Ch 2. Social processes and spatial form. The conceptual problems of urban planning.
Massey, D.B. 1995. *Spatial Divisions of Labor: Social Structures and the Geography of Production*. Second Edition. New York City, New York: Routledge. Ch 2. Uneven development and spatial structures.

Week 8 (Oct 10 & 12)

Globalization I: Global Economic Shifts and the End of the Long Boom.

Readings

Daly, M.T., and M.I. Logan. *The Brittle Rim: Finance, Business, and the Pacific Region*. Penguin Books, 1989. Ch 1.
Dicken, P. 2015. *Global Shift: Mapping the Changing Contours of the World Economy*. Guilford Publications. Ch 1. What in the World is Going On?

Week 9 (Oct 17 & 19)

Globalization II. Dependency and the World Economy.

Reading

Hopkins, T.K., and Immanuel Wallerstein. 1986. "Commodity Chains in the World-Economy Prior to 1800." *Review (Fernand Braudel Center)* 10 (1): 157–170.

Knox, P., J. Agnew, and L. McCarthy. 2014. *The Geography of the World Economy*. Routledge. Ch 8. Dynamics of Interdependence: transformation of the periphery.

Week 10 (Oct 24 & 26)

Dispersion and Localization in the Global Economy

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

Storper, M. Globalization, Localization, and Trade, in *The Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography*, edited by Clark, G.L., M.P. Feldman, and M.S. Gertler, 146-165. New York, Oxford University Press, 2000.

Dicken, P. 2015. *Global Shift: Mapping the Changing Contours of the World Economy*. Guilford Publications. Ch 3. Tangled Webs: Unraveling complexity in the Global Economy.

Knox, P., J.A. Agnew, and L. McCarthy. 2014. *The Geography of the World Economy*. Routledge. Ch 1. The Changing World Economy.

Week 11 (Oct 31 & Nov 2)

Understanding Globalization Through Value Chain Analysis

Readings

Gereffi, G., and K. Fernandez-Stark. 2011. "Global Value Chain Analysis: A Primer." Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness, Durham, NC.

http://www.cggc.duke.edu/pdfs/2011-05-31_GVC_analysis_a_primer.pdf.

Bair, J. 2005. "Global Capitalism and Commodity Chains: Looking Back, Going Forward." *Competition & Change* 9 (2): 153–80.

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)

Dedrick, J., K. L. Kraemer, and G. Linden. 2010. "Who Profits from Innovation in Global Value Chains? A Study of the iPod and Notebook PCs." *Industrial and Corporate Change* 19 (1): 81–116.

Moran, D., D. McBain, K. Kanemoto, M. Lenzen, and A. Geschke. 2015. "Global Supply Chains of Coltan: A Hybrid Life Cycle Assessment Study Using a Social Indicator." *Journal of Industrial Ecology* 19 (3): 357–65.

Sutherland, E. 2011. "Coltan, the Congo and Your Cell Phone." https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1752822.

Week 13 (Nov 14 & 16)

Integrating Perspectives in Economic Geography: The Rise of Global Retailing

Readings

Wrigley, N. The Globalization of Retail Capital: Themes for Economic Geography, in *The Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography*, edited by Clark, G.L., M.P. Feldman, and M.S. Gertler, 18-44. New York, Oxford University Press, 2000.

Konefal, Jason, Michael Mascarenhas, and Maki Hatanaka. 2005. "Governance in the Global Agro-Food System: Backlighting the Role of Transnational Supermarket Chains." *Agriculture and Human Values* 22 (3): 291–302.

Week 14 (Nov 21)

Integrating Perspectives in Economic Geography: Global Agri-Food Systems

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

Humphrey, J., and O. Memedovic. 2006. "Global Value Chains in the Agrifood Sector."

<http://agris.fao.org/agris-search/search.do?recordID=GB2013202293>.

Renting, H., T., K. Marsden, and J. Banks. 2003. "Understanding Alternative Food Networks: Exploring the Role of Short Food Supply Chains in Rural Development." *Environment and Planning A* 35 (3): 393–411.

Yu, Yang, Kuishuang Feng, and Klaus Hubacek. 2013. "Tele-Connecting Local Consumption to Global Land Use." *Global Environmental Change* 23 (5): 1178–86.

THANKSGIVING

Week 15 (Nov 28 & 30)

Student presentations: short paper 2.

Week 16 (Dec 5)

Course conclusions