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GEOG 2410: Economic Geography

Spring 2015

Boettcher West #126

Tuesday & Thursday 12p – 1:50p

Instructor: Dr. Eric Boschmann

Office: #112 Boettcher West, Department of Geography & the Environment

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Tel: 303.871.4387

Office hours: Monday 1p-2p; Thursday 2p-3p; or by appointment

Course materials are available on Canvas

Course Description: From the catalog, this course is described as focusing upon “economic elements as spatially arranged, distribution of economic activities on the earth's surface; market, resource and transportation factors in location theory.” We build upon this description by recognizing the centrality of economic activity in everyday social, political, and environmental life – be it global interactions, national economies, regional growth, neighborhood vibrancy, or personal everyday lives. Major topics include: traditional location theory; the global economy; manufacturing and production; service economies; global geographic inequalities and uneven development; and intersections of the economy with the environment.

Course Outcomes: In this course you will become knowledgeable of both contemporary and traditional concepts central to economic geography. This will be accomplished through assigned readings, mini-lectures, exercises, class discussion, and examples of economic geography in everyday media. An emphasis is placed on recognizing economic activities and the everyday life.

Course readings: There is no course textbook. All readings will be made available under the Modules section of Canvas. The Calendar contains the dates each reading is due.

Grades: Your earned grades will be available in Gradebook on Canvas. At the end of the quarter, your course grade will be weighted as noted below, and a standard grading scale is used for your final grade.

10%	Attendance and participation
20%	Reading summaries
10%	Economic geography in the media
20%	Homework Exercises
30%	Exams (15% each)
10%	Seminar discussion and reflection

Course grading scale:	
94 – 100% = A	73 – 76% = C
90 – 93% = A-	70 – 72% = C-
87 – 89% = B+	67 – 69% = D+
83 – 86% = B	63 – 66% = D
80 – 82% = B-	60 – 62% = D-
77 – 79% = C+	below 60% = F

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend all class periods, and actively participate.

Reading: Reading is an essential component to this class; but the reading load is not overwhelming. The class will run like a seminar, with discussion and mini-lectures. Class time will be dependent upon everyone having read the assigned material. For each class period, upload to Canvas a 250-word response to the reading (brief summary, and your thoughts, questions, engagements with the material, or, responses to guiding questions).

You will be asked to provide self-assessment on your reading and participation grade.

Exams: There are two scheduled exams. Exam 1 is around mid-quarter, and Exam 2 is during week 9. These exams will cover all the reading material as well as class discussions and material presented in mini-lectures. Exams will assess your knowledge of the basic concepts of economic geography. Mixed format exams.

Homework exercises: Throughout the quarter there are several homework exercises, which provide hands-on opportunities to explore how economic geographers make sense of the world through many of the mundane aspects of everyday economic life. The homework exercises are noted with an 🍏 in the course calendar. Details will be described in class and/or in the Modules section of Canvas. (A few exercises not listed on the calendar may be added with advance notice). In most cases the homework exercise should be completed before class. Come prepared to discuss your findings, and bring a printed copy to hand in during class.

Seeing Economic Geography in Everyday Media: See separate handout for details.

Seminar discussion and reflection: At the end of the quarter we will spend class time in a more explicit seminar setting. Selected readings will be provided that are less factual in nature, and more higher-level thought provoking reads. In smaller groups we will discuss the readings together. You will also then submit a written reflection on the seminars. The purpose of this seminar is to use the knowledge gained over the quarter to critically examine issues of economic geography today.

Field trip: We have a great opportunity to see economic geography in action by visiting a high-tech semiconductor manufacturing plant in the Denver area. The field trip is **scheduled for Thursday, April 16th** beginning at 12 noon. Due to the drive time involved, this field trip will last **until 4pm or so**. If you have class from 2- 4pm *you are not required to skip another class* for this field trip. But if possible, please make arrangements with your professor; I can provide a letter explaining the situation.

Policies:

- Come to class on time, everyday.
- Participate and respect others.
- During active class time, please turn off cell phones, computers, and I-Pods during class (we may need computers on certain days).
- Homework and exam dates are firm. Any assignments received late are subject to point reductions. Let me know if you are facing an unusual circumstance.
- Please contact the Disabilities Services office if you need special accommodations.

**GEOG 2410 Economic Geography
Calendar | Spring 2015**

Week 1

T March 24
R March 26

**Course Introduction
History of Capitalism**

No readings

🍏 *Exercise 1*: Context matters: Describe the economic activities of your hometown.

Week 2

T March 31

Critique of Capitalism

Reading: "Marxist Criticism" Lois Tyson

R April 2

Traditional Location Theory

Reading: "Traditional Location Theory" Wood and Roberts

🍏 *Exercise 2*: complete the end of chapter exercises

Week 3

T April 7

Globalization 1

Reading: "Globalization and place -- the death of geography?" Chapter 1 in, Murray and Overton, 2014 *Geographies of Globalization*, 2nd edition

🍏 *Exercise 3*: Global geographies of the firm

R April 9

Globalization 2

Reading: "Globalizing economic geographies" Chapter 4 in, Murray and Overton, 2014 *Geographies of Globalization*, 2nd edition

🍏 *Exercise 4*: Tracing a product in the global production system

Week 4

T April 14

Manufacturing, Deindustrialization, and the Renaissance of Manufacturing

Reading: two articles from *The Atlantic*

 "Making it in America", Adam Davidson (Jan/Feb 2012)

 "The Insourcing Boom", Charles Fishman (Dec 2012)

R April 16

FIELD TRIP Seeing high-tech manufacturing in action. 12p – 4:30p

🍏 *Exercise 5*: Field Trip Reflection (submit to Canvas by **5pm, Friday, April 17**)

Week 5

T April 21

Service geographies and changing urban form

Readings: from Yeong-Hyun and Short (2008) *Cities and Economies* →

 Ch. 4 Service industry and metropolitan economies

 Ch. 5 Globalization and world cities

R April 23

EXAM 1

Week 6

T April 28

Development: mainstream, modernization, Neoliberalism

Reading: each student will be assigned one chapter (Russia, Poland, Africa, Bolivia, India, China) from Jeffery Sachs' *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*

🍏 *Exercise 6*: One page summary of your chapter (this Exercise replaces your reading summary requirement)

**GEOG 2410 Economic Geography
Calendar | Spring 2015**

R April 30

Development: Measures and theories of unevenness

Readings: 3 brief articles

- 1) Constanza, R. et al. 2014. "Time to leave the GDP behind." *Nature*. 505:283-285
- 2) Easterly, W. 2007. "The ideology of development." *Foreign Policy*. July/August, 31-35.
- 3) Kristof, N. 2010 "The Happiest People" *New York Times*

🍎 *Exercise 7*: Exploring population and development measures

Week 7

T May 5

Socio-economic inequalities

Reading: Branko Milanovic 2012. *The Haves and Have-Nots: A Brief and Idiosyncratic History of Global Inequality* (available electronically under Course Reserves module) [each student will select one Essay and one Vignette to read, and prepare for in-class sharing]

Essay I: Unequal People (*Inequality among individuals within a nation*) & 10 Vignettes

Essay II: Unequal Nations (*Inequality among countries in the world*) & 7 Vignettes

Essay III: Unequal World (*Inequality among citizens in the world*) & 9 Vignettes

🍎 *Exercise 8*: Two tweets: Summarize your selected Essay in 1 tweet (140 characters) and your Vignette in 1 tweet (140 characters). (this Exercise does not replace your reading summary requirement)

R May 7

Gender

Reading: Patel, 2006. "Working the night shift: Gender and the global economy"

Week 8

T May 12

Labor: you, the creative class, and informal economies

Reading: Biles, 2008. "Informal work and livelihoods in Mexico. Getting by or getting ahead?"

🍎 *Exercise 9*: Describe your labor/employment experience(s)

R May 14

Tourism and Consumption

Reading: John Urry and Jonas Larsen. 2012. Chapter 1 "The Tourist Gaze" in *The Tourist Gaze 3.0* 3rd edition. London: Sage Publications.

Week 9

T May 19

Economic considerations of the environment

Reading "Environment, Sustainability and Globalization" Chapter 9 in, Murray and Overton, 2014 *Geographies of Globalization*, 2nd edition

🍎 *Exercise 10*: Critiquing the message in "Story of Stuff"

R May 21

EXAM 2

Week 10

T May 26

Seminar Discussion #1

Reading: National Research Council. 2010. "How is Economic Globalization Affecting Inequality?" *Understanding the Changing Planet: Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences*. Committee on Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences in the Next Decade. Washington D.C., National Academies Press. Chapter 8.

In Class: *Inequality for All*, DVD 90min.

R May 28

Seminar Discussion #2

Reading: Lisa Sun-Hee Park and David Naguib Pellow. 2011. "Environmental Privilege in the Rocky Mountains" *The Slums of Aspen: Immigrants vs. the Environment in America's Eden*. NYU Press. Introduction.

Final Exam Slot: Tuesday, June 2

No class meeting. Seminar Discussion Reflection Essay due by 2pm (submit on Canvas).