

COURSE OUTLINE: Geography 2511 (Economic Geography) and Economics 2511 / (Locational Economics)

Class: M-W 7:00 to 8:30 (RB 1042) Winter 2013

Dr. Mitchell Taylor

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About the course: This is an introductory course in economic geography offered by the Department of Geography and cross-listed with the Department of Economics. The field of Economics is a branch of the social sciences concerned primarily with analyzing and explaining human behavior in making decisions about the allocation of scarce resources. Human populations are not homogeneous with respect to resources, culture, social systems, values, political systems or capacities. It can be difficult to predict or generalize about the behavior of real-world economies because of these factors are spatially stratified. Geography affects economies not only by imposing spatially derived logistic constraints on the costs and benefits of business, but also by imposing terms on the conditions of commerce that derive from the desire of cultures and nation states to benefit as much as possible from trade. This course reviews some of the basic principles of economics, including the traditional theories of spatial economic organization. The course also examines the changing world economy from a human geography perspective that includes environmental, political, social, and cultural considerations. Economic Globalization has been called “the end of Geography” because of its norming effects on all aspects of human endeavor. We will examine the rationale underlying that thesis, the evidence for it, and try to understand if this process is positive, inevitable, and stable; or simply the latest manifestation of the dynamic process that is human social, cultural, and ecological evolution. Like the global market place, the Course Outline and lectures are constantly under-development and will be updated during the course of the term. Quizzes are unannounced and the number of questions (points) on a quiz can vary.

Pre-requisite Officially, students are required to have taken either Geography 1120 or Economics 1100. In practice, any student entering at least the 2nd year of his or her program is welcome to take the course. We will review essential economic principles and terminology in the first lectures. An interest in affairs pertaining to the world of finance, business and economics is an asset.

Glossary of Terms Each discipline has its own specialized vocabulary to allow efficient communication of theories and concepts particular to the field. Those new to the field must learn the acronyms and terms before they can access the material efficiently or effectively. For this reason a glossary of economic geography terms has been posted on WebCT. We will add to this list as the course progresses, and students are responsible to know the terms in the glossary.

Required Text: Ritzer, G. 2011. *Globalization: The Essentials 5th edition*. Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, John Wiley and Sons, UK. 356pp.

Other relevant texts: Ritzer (2010) *Globalization: A Basic Text*
Coe, Kelly & Yeung (2007) *Economic Geography: A Contemporary Approach*
Knox, Agnew, and McCarthy (2008) *The Geography of the World Economy*
Combes, Mayer, and Thisse (2008) *Economic Geography: The Integration of Regions and Nations*
Hayter, R. and J. Patchell (2011). *Economic Geography: An Institutional Approach*.

D2L Resources

Various resource materials including .pdf versions of PowerPoint lectures will be made available as downloadable files on D2L. You must be registered in the course to access these materials. Non-digital lecture materials from class will not be available on D2L. Students are welcome to take notes with laptop computers.

Office Hours

M,T,W,Th,F (0900- 1700) except during scheduled class, or by appointment.

Course Schedule			
Weeks	Lecture Topic	Reading	Quiz (40% value)
Jan 07	Introduction / Overview / Some Basic Principles of Economics	Glossary	No quiz
Jan 14	Basic Principles of Economics (continued)	Microeconomics Handout	quiz 1
Jan 21	Geographical Economics	Chapter 1	quiz 2
Jan 28	Spatial Stratification of Markets and Producers	Chapter 2	quiz 3
Feb 04	Historical Development of Economies	Chapter 3	quiz 4
Feb 11	Industrial Cores, Consumer Peripheries, Cultural Exchange	Chapter 4	quiz 5
Feb 18	Reading Week		bonus
Feb 25	Globalization of Capitalism and Production, Ideologies	Chapter 5	quiz 6
Mar 04	Globalization of Capitalism and Production, Ideologies	Chapter 9	quiz 7
Mar 11	History and Economic Flows	Chapter 11	quiz 8
Mar 18	Global Flows: Tech, Media, People	Chapter 6	quiz 9
Mar 25	Global Flows: Human Rights and Environment	Chapter 7 & 8	quiz 10
Apr 01	Supranational Integration vs. Regional/National Resurgence/	Chapter 13	quiz 11
Apr 08	Globalization Report Card	Chapters 10 &12	quiz 12
TBA	Final Exam (scheduled by the University)		(60%) course mark
Apr 21	Final Grades must be submitted to the Registrar by the Instructor		

No midterm exam, no reports, no papers, and no presentations. Make ups with medical certificate of illness, varsity sports, family emergency, or by prior arrangement only.