

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

Class: M-W 5:30 to 7:00 (RB 1042) Winter 2013

Instructor: Dr. Mitchell Taylor, Department of Geography
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Office Hours: Office location: RC 2006H Thunder Bay Campus. I am in M-Th from 9:00 to 5:30, and occasionally on F. My teaching schedule is posted on the door. Office hours are informal, just come when I am there.

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-requisites:

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.

The course outline is an expression of an intention and can be modified by the instructor as required to meet course objectives, accommodate contingencies, and correct any errors.

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 D2L. 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 during lectures.

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