

COURSE OUTLINE: Geography 2511 (Economic Geography) and Economics 2511 / (Locational Economics)**Class: CEDL On-Line offering Winter 2016**

Instructor: Dr. Mitchell Taylor, Department of Geography
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Office Hours: Office location: RC 2006H Thunder Bay Campus. I am in from about 9:00 to 5:30 M-Th, and work at home on Fridays. My teaching schedule is posted on the door. Office hours are informal, students with access to the Thunder Bay campus are welcome to drop in anytime.

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 1120/1140 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 environmental issues and economic principles in the first lectures. An interest in the connectivity between the environment, international governance, and world 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.

Pedagogy:

The material for this course will be provided as both lecture and text format. The lectures are archived on D2L as PDF files. There will be weekly timed exams over the material assigned to date. These exams will be “proctored” by the “Quizzes” Tab on D2L. All quizzes are to be written independently and all quizzes are comprehensive because the course will build upon the concepts and terminology already covered as we progress through the term. However the quizzes will emphasize the material that has been assigned since the last quiz. D2L will scramble the order of quiz questions and the order of the answers for individual questions. The questions for any given quiz can also be varied randomly by selection from a test bank, so that not all questions from the test bank will occur on all quizzes. However, the main feature to promote adherence to the Lakehead code of ethics is that the questions will be timed (1 minute per question). Quizzes will be open book and open notes. Quizzes will be “open” for a 6 hour window beginning 0600 and ending at 12:00 on Mondays of each week except Reading Week (Feb 15-19) and Easter Monday (March 28th). By convention there is no quiz during reading week, and the quiz normally scheduled for March 28th is deferred to Tuesday (March 29th) at the same time period. Missed quizzes may not be made up without documentation or prior approval in writing (email message). Those traveling for sports or other purposes are responsible to make arrangements for internet access. I will re-schedule quizzes missed for medical reasons within the week the quiz was due unless the documentation identifies longer time frame for recovery. After that time interval, the window for make-ups will have expired. allowed.

The final exam will be a regular (i.e., come to a Lakehead campus or a suitable test site as arranged by the Registrar and write a proctored scantron exam). The final examination will be no notes, no books, just a non-programmable calculator.

The schedule of material is provided by the course outline listed below.

The on-line format offers considerable flexibility for students to complete the course in a manner that is complimentary to their other priorities. However, successful completion of this course requires discipline, diligence and consistency. The term system puts pressure on both students and professors to defer what can be deferred to accommodate other priorities. I have tried to provide sufficient structure to make Economic Geography a successful competitor for your time this term. If you keep up with the readings and appreciate that the quizzes are identifying what I consider to be the core material for the course ... you should do well. If you procrastinate or schedule too many conflicting priorities ... your mark will reflect these choices. So if you need a particular mark to meet your professional goals, then make sure you budget the

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time and do the work necessary to get the mark you need. Please do not come to me after the course is over and ask for special dispensation.

As you can see from the course schedule below, there is no mid-term and there are no papers or reports to write. I will update some of the lectures as the term progresses. I will advise students when a lecture has been modified. Students who are traveling must make arrangements for internet connections for scheduled quizzes.

Required Text:

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

Other useful/relevant texts include but are not limited to:

Coe, Kelly & Yeung (2007) *Economic Geography: A Contemporary Approach*

Combes, Mayer, and Thisse (2008) *Economic Geography: The Integration of Regions and Nations*

Hayter, R. and J. Patchell (2011). *Economic Geography: An Institutional Approach*.

Knox, Agnew, and McCarthy (2008) *The Geography of the World Economy*

Ritzer (2010) *Globalization: A Basic Text*.

Sparke, M. 2013. *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration*. Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, John Wiley and Sons, West Sussex, UK. 491pp.

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Course Schedule

| Dates | Quizzes* (40%) | Lectures | Topic Area | Readings |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Jan 04-08 | no quiz | Lecture 1 | Environmental and the Economy | Glossary, Basic Economic Concepts |
| Jan 11-15 | quiz 1 | Lectures 2-5 | Basics of Economics Part 1 | Economic Basics, Preface of Text |
| Jan 18-22 | quiz 2 | Lectures 6-18 | Basics of Economics Part 2 | Chapter 1 |
| Jan 25-29 | quiz 3 | Lectures 19-20 | GG&S Geography of Economic Stratification | Chapter 2 |
| Feb 01-05 | quiz 4 | Lecture 21 | Economic Update 2016 | Chapter 3 |
| Feb 08-12 | quiz 5 | Lectures 22-23 | Subprime Loan Crisis | Chapter 5 |
| Feb 15-19 | no quiz | Reading Week | Reading Week | Chapter 6 |
| Feb 22-26 | quiz 6b | Lecture 24 | Globalization 1 What is Globalization | Chapter 7 |
| Feb 29- Mar 04 | quiz 6a | Lecture 25 | Globalization 2 Political Spectra | Chapter 8 |
| Mar 07-11 | quiz 6c | Lecture 26 | Globalization 3 Roots of Neoliberalism | Chapter 9 |
| Mar 14-18 | quiz 6d | Lecture 27 | Globalization History | Chapter 10 |
| Mar 21-25 | quiz 6e | Lecture 28 | Globalization Flows | Chapter 4 |
| Mar 29-Apr 01 | quiz 7a | Lecture 29 | Positive and Negative Globalization Impacts | Chapter 11 |
| April 04 | quiz 7b | Last Quiz, No Slides | | Chapter 12 |
| TBA | Final Exam is On Campus | | | |
| Apr 25 | Course Marks Due | | | |

* Quizzes are online (D2L) from 0600 to 1200 Monday mornings only

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