

Geography 22100_01 - Economic Geography & Globalization

SPRING 2023

Schedule: Tuesday & Friday, 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Instructor: Joao M. Da Silva
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Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm
Room: North Bldg. 1022

SYLLABUS

Course overview

- This class is in-person and synchronous.
- Attendance is mandatory.
- Participation is key.
- All reading materials will be posted on blackboard.

Economic geography is the study of the spatial organization of economic activities across the world. Economic geography explores economic, historical, cultural, and political developments occurring in distinct but connected places. This class will introduce the importance of place on capitalist systems, and the social and spatial consequences that follow.

This course serves as an introduction to the sub-discipline of economic geography, which will include an exploration of the history of both economics and geography through a global lens. We will explore the history of the development of economic thought, leading up to the present, as well as the geographical nature of economic phenomena and processes, and the contributions geographers have made to the understandings of economics. The course's focus is on the dominant form of global economic activity today, which is capitalistic, and the way this economic structure plays out through different geographies at different historical moments in time.

Course Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of the goals, methods, subject, principles, and theories of economic geography
- Be able to understand the intersection of economic processes with space and time
- To understand the contemporary trends in the global economy and the global phenomena of uneven development and inequality

- Relate course content to current economic, social, and political events, in the world and identify some of the geographical trends in economic processes

Learning Outcomes:

- Recognize the significance of space and place in understanding economics processes and outcomes
- Discuss the ways space and time interact and constrain each other in reference to economic processes
- Critically evaluate normative explanations and assumption of economic systems, conflicts, and problems
- Talk clearly and succinctly about economic geography concepts, using relevant examples, and well-developed arguments

Email Policy

I encourage you to email me with any questions about the course. Please make sure to review the syllabus and blackboard announcements prior to contacting me.

When you email me, you must do so from your @myhunter email address. You must also include your name as it appears in CUNYFirst in all communications. However, you should also inform me of your preferred pronouns and name/nickname which may be different than that listed on CUNYFirst and on Blackboard. **Please include “GEOG 22100” in your subject line.**

You should expect a response from me within 24 hours. But allow 48 hours over the weekend and/or observed holidays. Remember that professionalism is expected in the communication through email (I encourage you to check the website [netiquette](#) if you have any doubt).

Grading Criteria

Final grades for the course will be determined according to the following percentages:

Attendance/Participation (10%)

Attendance is mandatory and class participation is expected as it is an important component of this class. Students will be expected to arrive on time and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings and any other content discussed in the previous class. Readings should be completed before the class period in which they will be discussed.

Up to two excused absences will be accepted, if you notify me in advance and offer a reasonable explanation (medical, personal). A third

excused absence requires a doctor's note or similar documented reason (exceptions will be made for special circumstances).

All unexcused absences will deduct 5 points from the attendance/participation grade based on the Hunter point/grade criteria. Students who miss class sessions are responsible for keeping up to date with class content and due dates listed in this syllabus and course blackboard. Tardiness will also deduct points from your final grade, please plan to arrive on time so as not to disrupt class.

Weekly Discussion/Reflections (30%)

Students will be expected to post brief reflections on the course content and readings before each class. A link will be provided on blackboard for each week. Reflections can be in the form of commentary or questions to discuss in class. Posts should be original, critical, and reflect on ideas inspired by the readings or questions you may have. You are also encouraged to respond to classmates' posts and engage in critical but respectful discussions.

Research Project (30%)

You will choose a geographical location at the beginning of the semester and explore and describe how economic and geographic factors interact to produce changes (or create stagnation) throughout the semester. You may work in groups (4 people max) or individually. You will be expected to come up with a research question or hypothesis and attempt to answer said question through research. You will be expected to keep field notes, take/use photographs, data visualization and utilize concepts discussed in the textbook to produce a brief presentation of your key findings. (We will discuss this in more detail during the first two weeks during class).

Final Essay (30%)

At the end of the semester, you will be expected to turn in your field notes, presentation content and produce a brief essay (1500 words max) describing your experience conducting research and if/how it contributed to your understanding of economic geography and globalization.

Learning Environment:

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with your legal name.

All people have the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. In this class, we will have the chance to indicate the name that we prefer to be called and, if we choose, to identify pronouns with which we would like to be addressed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly and support classmates in doing so as well. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

You are expected to treat your instructor and all other participants in the course with courtesy and respect in all interactions. Your comments to others should be factual, constructive, and free from harassing statements. You are encouraged to disagree with other students, but such disagreements need to be based upon facts and documentation (rather than prejudices and personalities).

Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: [\(212\) 772- 4857](tel:2127724857) or [\(212\) 650-3230](tel:2126503230).

Mental Health:

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are resources available at Hunter

College to assist you. The Counseling and Wellness Services division at Student Affairs offer free and confidential short-term counseling to students. Please visit their website for all contact information:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/cws/counselingservices/welcome>.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct:

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

- a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
- b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/repository/files/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct.pdf>

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Updates will be posted regularly on Blackboard.

Preliminary Course Schedule

Date	Day	Topic
January 27	Friday	Class introduction
January 31	Tuesday	Introduction to Economic Geography
February 3	Friday	Approaches to Economic Geography
February 7	Tuesday	From Regional Specialization to Global Integration
February 10	Friday	From Regional Specialization to Global Integration
February 14	Tuesday	Capital Unbound
February 17	Friday	Managing Capitalism
February 24	Friday	Neoliberalism
February 28	Tuesday	Uneven Geographical Developments
March 3	Friday	Restructuring Work and Employment
March 7	Tuesday	Restructuring Work and Employment
March 10	Friday	Geographies of Development
March 14	Tuesday	Connecting Cities
March 17	Friday	Connecting Cities
March 21	Tuesday	Global Production Networks
March 24	Friday	Global Production Networks
March 28	Tuesday	Global sourcing: insights from the clothing industry
March 31	Friday	Urban Agglomeration, Innovation and Creativity
April 4	Tuesday	Urban Agglomeration, Innovation and Creativity
April 18	Tuesday	Consumption and Retail
April 21	Friday	Consumption and Retail
April 25	Tuesday	Economic Geography and the Environment
April 28	Friday	Economic Geography and the Environment
May 2	Tuesday	Alternative Economic Geographies
May 5	Friday	Alternative Economic Geographies
May 9	Tuesday	Contested Futures
May 16	Tuesday	Class Presentations
May 19	Friday	Class Presentations + Final Essays Due

Primary Textbook:

MacKinnon, D. and Cumbers, A. 2019. *An Introduction to Economic Geography: Globalization, Uneven Development and Place*. Third Edition. Routledge.

Additional readings:

David, Greg. 2022. "An Uneven and Incomplete Recovery for NYC's Economy in 2022" *The City*. <https://www.thecity.nyc/economy/2022/12/21/23519604/nyc-economic-recovery-uneven-2022-le-gratin>

Cresswell, T. 2004. "Reading a 'Global Sense of Place'" from *Place: A Short Introduction*.

Harvey, David "Uneven Geographical Developments" in *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, pages 87-119

Tokatli, Nebahat. 2008. "Global sourcing: insights from the global clothing industry—the case of Zara, a fast fashion retailer". *Journal of Economic Geography* 8. pp. 21–38

Important dates for 2023 Spring Semester:

04/05 - 04/13, Wednesday–Thursday - Spring Recess

05/12 -05/13, Friday-Saturday - Reading Day (No Class)

05/16, Tuesday - Last day to withdraw from course with a grade of W

05/17-05/23, Wednesday-Tuesday - Finals

05/23, Tuesday - End of Spring Term

You can find the complete Hunter academic calendar here - <https://hunter.cuny.edu/students/registration/academic-calendar/>