

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 221 / SPRING 2014
MONDAY / WEDNESDAY 4:10 – 5:25
Hunter North, Room 1028 and Online

Instructor: Annie Spencer
Office location: Hunter North, Room 1032
Email: aspencer@gc.cuny.edu (Include “GEOG221” in the subject line)
Office hours: In lieu of regular office hours, I will be available by appointment, via email or telephone. I will respond to student emails (please include the course number in your subject) within 24 hours.

Brief description/purpose of course: This course serves as an introduction to the study of economic geography. Economic geography, as a subfield of human geography, emphasizes the spatial, social and environmental aspects of economic livelihoods, production, and social reproduction on scales ranging from the household to the nation-state and beyond. The course will examine social and economic processes in an international context and will explore questions of food production, the global supply chain in manufacturing, labor, migration, urbanization, deindustrialization, uneven development, debt and inequality. Geography 101 is a prerequisite for the course, which is a 3-credit course and satisfies GER B/3.

The course will be taught as an online/in-person hybrid course. The first two sessions of the course will meet in-person in room 1028 of Hunter North. **Attendance is mandatory for the eight (8) in-person sessions.** Missing an in-person class will result in a 10-point deduction from your class participation grade. The rest of the course will take place in an asynchronous, online format with weekly assignments and regular small group discussions.

The class will meet in the Hunter North Building, room 1028, on the following dates:

Monday, January 27
Wednesday, January 29
Monday, March 3
Wednesday, March 5
Monday, April 7
Wednesday, April 9
Monday, May 12
Wednesday, May 14

Hybrid Format:

The course will meet in-person eight times throughout the semester. All other course engagement will happen remotely. Students are expected to complete the readings and all Blackboard activity (discussion board posts, supplemental materials) on a given week’s material by midnight Friday of that week. Students are expected to stay current on the Blackboard discussion throughout the week and must demonstrate this by making no fewer than two substantive posts each week.

Required textbook: The one required text for the course is:

Coe, Neil, Philip Kelly, and Henry W. C. Yeung. 2013. *Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction*. Second Edition. Blackwell: Malden, MA. ISBN: 978-0470943380

The text has been ordered through Shakespeare & Company and the Hunter College Bookstore and can be found online in new and used editions. Supplementary readings will be found on Blackboard unless otherwise specified.

Course objectives: Upon completion of this course students will:

- have an understanding of the goals, methods, subject, principles and theories of economic geography and be better informed about the spatial characteristics of economic processes;
- have an understanding of the close links between local events and global phenomena;
- have an understanding of contemporary trends in the global economy and their impacts on individual livelihoods in diverse places; and
- be able to apply newly-acquired knowledge to think sensibly and critically about important real-world problems and be able to make better sense of academic, government and journalistic accounts of the global economy.

Course evaluation: Students will be evaluated on the following criteria.

Presentation 1:	25 points
Presentation 2:	25 points
Class participation:	25 points
Final exam:	25 points

Presentations: In lieu of written response papers, students will present in small groups on a given week's readings and supplemental material. Guidelines will be discussed during the first class session. Each person will participate in two presentations during the semester.

Class Preparation and Participation: Students are **required** to attend in-person class sessions and should be prepared to discuss the readings and any discussion assignments given in the previous class. Readings should be completed **before** the class period in which they will be discussed. Students' written (online) and spoken (in-person) comments should regularly demonstrate effective class preparation and substantive, thoughtful engagement with the course materials and topics. Students are expected to keep up with online course assignments and to be active participants in online discussion.

Final Exam: Take-home, essay exam; the exam will be handed out during the last class period on. The exam must be turned in in-person during the class's scheduled exam period as determined by the Hunter College Registrar's Office. The date will be announced in class.

Standards for written work: Your written work (the final exam) should conform to the following standards:

- Papers should be typed, double spaced with one-inch margins, using a Times Roman or other similar serif font. (Courier style fonts are not to be used.) Papers should be stapled in the upper left hand corner. Do not use plastic report covers.

- Papers should cite sources and use the author-date style of referencing commonly used in the discipline of geography. See a copy of the Annals of the Association of American Geographers for examples.
- Papers should make use of sources from the World Wide Web only when the source is a government agency or other reliable institution, and online version of a print resource (i.e. article databases), or when it is the online source itself that is the subject of the research. See me concerning the appropriateness of using sources from the Web. You should not use Wikipedia or other online encyclopedic references in a college-level paper.

Writing help: Students who need help with writing are encouraged to take advantage of the Hunter College Writing center. The Reading/Writing Center is located in Room 416, Thomas Hunter Building. Drop-in hours and more information can be found here: <http://rwc.hunter.cuny.edu/index.html>

Classroom policies: Participation is 25 percent of the class grade. For in-class sessions, students should not expect to receive full credit for participation if they are habitually absent, late, sleeping, using electronic devices or are otherwise visibly not engaged in or disruptive of the class discussion. For online sessions, students should complete all required assignments in the week that they are assigned. Whether online or in-person, students will be expected to demonstrate that they have read and engaged critically with the week's readings.

Hunter College Policy on 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.

Hunter College ADA Compliance: 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 or (212) 650-3230.

Note on late assignments/missed exams: If you will not be able to complete an assignment on time, please inform me of this at least one day prior to the due date. Late assignments will ONLY be accepted if a prior arrangement has been made with me and appropriate circumstances warrant additional time. Late assignments without appropriate circumstance/documentation will be penalized (5 points off per day late).

Students should make every effort not to miss the midterm exam window. If you miss the exam, you must (1) contact me within 48 hours of the missed exam, (2) present acceptable documentation for your absence, and (3) be available for the make-up exam (there will be one make-up exam day held outside of class for those eligible). A make-up exam will cover the same material as the regular exam but will not be the same exam.

Policy on Incomplete (IN) and Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) grades: A final grade of IN (incomplete) will not be given except under the most extraordinary, and documented, circumstances. Only students who have completed ALL course requirements including all writing assignments, midterm and final exams will be eligible for a final grade of CR/NC.

Disclaimer: Assignment due dates and readings may change from what is listed in this syllabus depending on the needs of the class and in unforeseen events such as school closures. I will give ample warning of any changes. Students will be responsible for staying abreast of any such revisions.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Monday, January 27: IN-PERSON CLASS: Introduction and course overview

[no assigned reading]

Wednesday, January 29: IN-PERSON CLASS: Conceptual Foundations & Setting the Stage

- Barnes, Trevor J. "Rethorizing Economic Geography: From the Quantitative Revolution to the 'Cultural Turn.'" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 91, no. 3 (2001): 546–565. doi:10.1111/0004-5608.00258.
- "How the U.S. Lost Out on iPhone Work," *New York Times*, January 21, 2012
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/22/business/apple-america-and-a-squeezed-middle-class.html?_r=1&src=me&ref=general
- "In Shift of Jobs, Apple Will Make Some Macs in the U.S.," *New York Times*, December 6, 2012.
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/07/technology/apple-to-resume-us-manufacturing.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&

Week 2 – February 3: An Economic Geography Approach to the World Economy

Readings:

- Coe, Chapter 1
- Dicken, P. 2011. "Introduction: Questioning 'Globalization,'" and "Part One: The Shifting Contours of the Global Economy," pp. 1 - 48 in *Global Shift: Mapping the Changing Contours of the World Economy*, Sage: Los Angeles.

Week 3 – February 10: Changing Thought and Practice in Economic Geography

Readings:

- Coe, Ch 2
- Blaut, James. 2000. "Environmentalism and Eurocentrism," in *The Geographical Review* 89(3), pp. 391-408.
- Harvey, David. 1973. "Revolutionary and Counter Revolutionary Theory in Geography and the Problem of Ghetto Formation," *Antipode* 4(2), pp. 1 – 13.
- Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. "Fatal Couplings of Power and Difference: Notes on Racism and Geography," *Professional Geographer* 54(1): 15 – 24.

Week 4 -- February 19&20*: Uneven Development

Readings:

- Coe, Chapter 3
- Solnit, Rebecca. 2007. "Detroit Arcadia: Exploring the Post-American Landscape," pp. 64 – 73 in *Harpers*, July 2007.
- Hylton, Wil S. "Broken Heartland: The Looming Collapse of Agriculture on the Great Plains." *Harpers*, July 2012.
- Reginato, James. "The Talk of Mumbai." *Vanity Fair*, June 6, 2012.
<http://www.vanityfair.com/society/2012/06/ambani-residence-photos-inside-architecture>.

Film: Land of Destiny

**no classes Monday, February 17. Classes follow a Monday schedule on Thursday, February 20.*

Week 5 – February 24: Commodity Chains; Supply Chains; Fast Fashion

Readings:

- Coe, Chapter 8: "Commodity Chains: Where Does Your Breakfast Come From?"
- Dicken, Peter. 2011. "'Fabric-ating Fashion': The Clothing Industries," pp. 301 – 330' in *Global Shift: Mapping The Changing Contours of the World Economy*. Guilford: New York.
- "In Trendy World of Fast Fashion, Styles Aren't Built To Last," NPR, March 2013.
<http://www.npr.org/2013/03/11/174013774/in-trendy-world-of-fast-fashion-styles-arent-made-to-last>
- "Bangladesh Factory Fire Leaves More than 100 Dead," *The Guardian*, November 25, 2012:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/nov/25/bangladesh-textile-factory-fire>
- "Retailers Sign Pact On Bangladesh Factory Inspections," NPR July 8, 2013
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/parallels/2013/07/08/200022374/retailers-sign-pact-on-bangladesh-factory-inspections>

WEEK 5 BLACKBOARD TASKS (to be completed by week's end):

Week 6 – Monday, March 3: IN-PERSON CLASS: Technology and Agglomeration: A "Flat" World?

Readings:

- Coe, Chapter 9, "Technological Change: Is the World Getting Smaller?"
- Friedman, Thomas. "It's a Flat World After All," in *The New York Times Magazine*, April 3, 2005.
- Cox, K. 2008. "Globalization, uneven development and capital: reflections on reading Thomas Friedman's the World is Flat." *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 1: 389–410.

Wednesday, March 5: IN-PERSON CLASS: The Role of the State & Transnational Corporations

- Coe, Chapter 4 & 10
- Additional, TBD.

Week 7 – March 10: MIDTERM REVIEW / ESSAY RESPONSE

There are no new readings this week. Students will be required to submit a short, mid-term essay on a prompt that will be given in the previous week's class.

Week 8 – March 17: Geographies of Development

Readings:

- MacKinnon, Danny & Andrew Cumbers. 2007. "Geographies of Development" pp. 252 – 276, in, *An Introduction to Economic Geography: Globalization, Uneven Development and Place*, Prentice Hall: New York.
- Finnegan, William. 2003. "The Economics of Empire: Notes on the Washington Consensus," pp. 41 – 54 in *Harpers Magazine*, May, 2003.
- Harvey, David. "The Geopolitics of Capitalism"

Film: Bamako

Week 9 – March 24: Economic Geography of the Global Food System

Readings:

- Dicken, Peter. 2011. "'We Are What We Eat': The Agro-Food Industries," pp. 271 – 300' in *Global Shift: Mapping The Changing Contours of the World Economy*. Guilford: New York.
- McMichael, Phillip. 2009. "The World Food Crisis in Historical Perspective," *Monthly Review* 61(3), pp. 32-47.
- Patel, Raj. 2011. "Can the World Feed 10 Billion People?" in *Foreign Affairs*, May 4, 2011.
- Lacey, Marc. "Across Globe, Empty Bellies Bring Rising Anger," *New York Times*, April 18, 2008.

Week 10, March 31: The Global Food System cont.

Readings:

- Martínez-Torres, María Elena and Peter Rosset. 2010. "La Vía Campesina: The Birth and Evolution of a Transnational Social Movement," *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 37: 149 – 175.
- La Via Campesina Declaration at Durbin:
http://viacampesina.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1174:la-via-campesina-declaration-in-durban&catid=48:-climate-change-and-agrofuels&Itemid=75
- Coalition of Immokolee Workers, "About" page: <http://ciw-online.org/about.html>

Film: Food, Inc.

Week 11 – Monday, April 7 IN-PERSON CLASS: Group Discussion

No new readings. Group discussion will focus on topics covered in the previous weeks' readings.

Wednesday, April 9: IN-PERSON CLASS: Financialization & Financial Crises

- Coe Ch 7

- Pike, Andy and Jane Pollard. 2010. "Economic Geographies of Financialization," in *Economic Geography*, V. 85, No.1.
- "The Giant Pool of Money," Radio Program. This American Life. 2010. (listen or read transcript)
 - <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/355/the-giant-pool-of-money>
- Reyes, Paul. "Bleak Houses," *Harpers Magazine*. August 2010.

Week 12 – April 28: Financialization & Financial Crises II

- McNally, David. 2010. Introduction and Chapter 1: "The Great Panic of 2008" in *Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance*, pp. 1 – 24, Oakland, PM Press.

Film: *The Inside Job*

Week 13 –May 5: Labor, Laborers, and Laboring in the Global Economy

Readings:

- Coe 13 & 14
- Mies, Maria. 1986. "Social Origins of the Sexual Division of Labor," in *Patriarchy and Accumulation On A World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labour*. 2nd ed. Zed Books. (Selections, TBD).
- Robinson, Cedric. 1983. "Capitalism, Slavery, and Bourgeois Historiography," in *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. The University of North Carolina Press.
- Nevins, Joseph. 2001. "Searching for security: boundary and immigration enforcement in an age of intensifying globalization." *Social Justice* 28.2 (84), pp. 132-148.

Week 14 – Monday, May 12: Topographies & Counter-Topographies in Economic Geography

- Woods, Clyde. 2007. "Sittin' On Top of the World," in McKittrick, Katherine, and Clyde Woods, eds. *Black Geographies and the Politics of Place*. South End Press.
- Woods, Clyde, ed. 2010. *In the Wake of Hurricane Katrina: New Paradigms and Social Visions*. The Johns Hopkins University Press (Selections, TBD).
- Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. 2009. "Race, Prisons and War: Scenes from the Gilmore History of US Violence." *Socialist Register* 45, no. 45.
- Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. 2007. Prologue & Introduction (pp. 1 – 29), from *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis and Opposition in Globalizing California*, University of California Press.

Week 15, Monday May 12: IN-PERSON CLASS: The Economic Geography of Debt

- Williams, Jeffrey. 2006. "The pedagogy of debt," in *College Literature* Volume 33, 4.
- Harris, Malcom. 2011. "Bad Education," from N+1. <http://nplusonemag.com/bad-education>
- "Downward Mobility Haunts U.S. Education," BBC News, December 3, 2012.
- Additional, TBD.

Wednesday, May 14: IN-PERSON CLASS:

No Required Readings. Final exam review and closing remarks.

Thursday, May 22: FINAL EXAM DUE