

Geography 22100: Economic Geography and Globalization

Spring 2017

Tuesday/Friday 12:45 to 2:00

Hunter North 1022

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Office Hours: By appointment

Description: This course is an introduction to economic geography. This course explores economic processes as they occur at a variety of scales, from global, to local. Economic geography can be described as 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.

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 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 importance geography plays 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

Textbook

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

Other readings will be posted on Blackboard, unless other online access is specified.

Evaluation

Class Participation/Attendance:	10%
Homework:	15%
Quiz 1:	10%
Quiz 2:	10%
Quiz 3:	10%
Mid-Term Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	25%

Class Participation/Attendance

Everyone will be expected to have read the relevant readings before each class. This will allow everyone to contribute to class discussions. Students who are often absent, late, or distracted, or whose comments consistently stray far from the broad topics under discussion, will not receive full credit. On the other hand, everyone can feel free to ask clarifying questions and to suggest discussion topics and connections to other materials or subjects. No one will be penalized for lacking prior knowledge of these topics during discussions, as long as it is clear that students have taken the time to read and investigate the week's materials to the best of their ability. Students can miss no more than three (3) classes, after a third absence students will begin to lose 5 points per absence on their final grade. Students who consistently participate in discussions and attend class will receive the full points for class participation.

Please note – being late to class impacts on participation; for every three late arrivals, a point is taken off your final grade.

Homework

Homework will consist of various different assignments ranging from multiple choice questions, reading responses, and short answer questions based on the readings. Questions/instructions will be provided a week ahead of time and will be due through Blackboard by 11:59 PM on the due date

Please note – All late homework will lose 10 points for each day that it is late.

Quiz 1/Quiz 2/Quiz 3

The quizzes are smaller versions of the mid-term and final exams consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Mid-Term Exam/Final Exam

The exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions.

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. ***Please note, copying even a single sentence or phrase directly from another text without providing citations is considered a form of plagiarism. Don't hesitate to ask citation questions to avoid unintentional plagiarism.

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 exams: You will only be able to make up the mid-term exam if you have a documented reason. If you have an emergency, try to contact me within 48 hours of the exam. However, if your reason involves religious holidays or other events known to you in advance, I will not accept any make-up exams unless you have gotten in touch with me *at the start of the semester*.

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. Please hand in CR/NC slips no later than the last scheduled day of class.

Note: Readings and class schedule 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 keeping up with announcements.

Course Schedule

Most weeks will contain one or two case study readings in addition to the textbook chapters, TBD.

Week 1 - January 31 – February 3

Introduction to Economics and Geography

Please carefully read the entire syllabus no later than before the next class.

Week 2 – February 7 - February 10

What exactly is economic geography?

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapters 1, and 2

Week 3 – February 14 – February 17

Capitalism, uneven development, and geography's role in the economy

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapter 3

Week 4 – February 21 - February 24

Capitalism, Global Poverty and Inequality

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapter 3

Supplementary Readings TBA

Week 5 – February 28 (Quiz 1**) – March 3**

Environment and Economy: Is nature a commodity?

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapter 5

February 28th Quiz 1

Week 6 – March 7 – March 10

State power in a globalizing world

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapter 4

Week 7 – March 14 - March 17

Corporations in a global economy

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapters 10

Week 8 – March 21 - March 24 (Quiz 2**)**

Labor power: global and local divisions of labor

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapters 6 and 13

March 24th Quiz 2

Week 9 – March 28 - March 31

Financialization - the rise of finance

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapter 7

Week 10 – April 4 - April 7

March 29 – Review Discussion

In-Class Midterm April 1

****April 10 - April 18 Spring Break!****

****April 19 – Last day to withdraw****

Week 11 – April 21

Follow the Commodity Chain

Documentary: Food Inc

Week 12 – April 25 - April 28

Technology and Change

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapter 9

Week 13 – May 2 - May 5 (Quiz 3**)**

How do we shop?

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapter 11

Supplementary Readings TBA

May 5th Quiz 3

Week 14 – May 9 - May 12

Why does place matter?

Coe, Kelly, Yeung (2013) Chapter 12

Week 15 - May 16

FINAL EXAM REVIEW

Final Exam Date – Friday, May 26th, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM