

GEOG 2420A: Economic Geography

Course Outline: Section 001 – Fall 2018

1. Course Information

1.1. Classroom Location:

Lecture: Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:20, SSC 3028

Tutorial: Tuesdays 11:30-12:20pm, SSC 3028

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Godwin Arku

Office: SSC 2427

Office Hours: Thursdays 2:30-4:30pm or by appointment

Email: within OWL

Teaching Assistant: Duncan Spilsbury

Office: SSC 2436

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2 - 4pm.

Email: dspilsbu@uwo.ca

2. Overview

2.1. Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the contemporary state of economic geography. Specifically, you will be exposed to the major issues confronting the global economy, drawing examples from around the world. The course will build your expertise in the following key areas:

- Conceptual foundation
- The spatial economy
- Economic space
- People, identities, and economic life

Throughout the course we will tackle key questions of economic life, from the activities of transnational corporations and states, to places of work and consumption. We will also explore how geographies shape both large-scale economic processes and our lived experiences. By the end of the course, you will come out with a clear understanding of how economic processes are rooted in social, cultural, and political realities.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 course from Geography 1100, Geography 1300A/B, Geography 1400F/G, Geography 1500F/G, Geography 2131A/B, Geography 2153A/B, Environmental Science 1021F/G; Economics 1021A/B, Economics 1022A/B; MOS 1021A/B, MOS 1023A/B, or enrolment in any of the Globalization Studies modules. (Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility)

2.2. Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

3. Course Format

The course will combine formal lectures, and videos, class discussions.

4. Course Readings

The required textbook for this course is:

Coe, N .M., Kelly, P. F. & Yeung, H. W. C. (2013) *Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction*. 2nd Edition. Wiley.

5. Course Evaluation

Course assessments and grades for the course are as follows:

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Mid-Term Examination	20%	October 16
Assignment #1	20%	October 23
Assignment # 2	20%	November 13
Final Examination	35%	December TBA
Class Participation	5%	

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

6. Course Policy Statements

6.1. Participation is Essential in this Course

Attendance of the lectures and tutorials is not optional. Your participation mark of 10% is based on regular attendance, active contributions in lectures and tutorials, and individual presentation of reading materials and information from local news media. Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials and are strongly encouraged to read relevant articles/chapters before coming to these classes. For each tutorial session, selected students will be tasked to summarize the readings for the day and also lead the discussion of these materials. The teaching assistant will keep track of attendance at all lectures and tutorials.

6.2. Missing Classes

Unless permission is granted students cannot absent themselves from GUEST LECTURES. Failure to attend guest lectures will attract a heavy penalty, mostly likely zero score for class participation mark. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the

Medical Documentation heading Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

6.3. Late Submissions

One percent point (1%) per weekday (weekends count as one weekday) will be deducted from late assignments. Assignments will not be accepted if handed in more than one week after the due date.

6.4. Emails:

All emails should be sent within OWL. Please **DO NOT** use my regular UWO email address.

6.5. Course Web Page (OWL)

During the term, information pertaining to lectures, assignments and other course-related matters will be posted on the course web page (OWL). Please note that copies of my lecture overheads/ppt presentations will also be posted a day before the lectures. These are for review purposes only. The overheads provide only a very condensed overview of the material covered in class. They do not constitute adequate notes by themselves, and are **no substitute for regular attendance of lectures**.

7. Schedule of Topics

	Topic
Sept 11	Introductory Overview: An introduction to the course; Course Objectives; Course Expectations
Lecture	Thinking Geographically: Concepts ➤ Reading: Chapter 1
Tutorial	****NO TUTORIAL***

	Topic
Sept 18	THE ECONOMY
Lecture	Exploring the economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean? • How “the economy” arose in time and space • Concepts used in understanding economic processes • Expanding the conventional notions of “the economy” ➤ Reading: Chapter 2
Tutorial (1)	

	Topic
Sept 25	THE STATE
Lecture	Who runs the economy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the state shapes economic processes • Kinds of states within the global economy • The changing role of the state in an era of globalization • Understanding neoliberalism and neoliberalization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 4
Tutorial (2)	

	Topic
Oct 2	ENVIRONMENT/ECONOMY
Lecture - 1	Can nature be a commodity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of resources into economic processes • Changing ways in which ownership over nature is established • Use of markets as a mechanism of environmental protection • Human/economic and natural systems linkages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 5
Oct 2	MAKING MONEY
Lecture - 2	Why has finance become so powerful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing roles of banking in financing modern production • Banking regulations and the global reach of finance • Importance of geography in globalization of financial markets • Financial markets and everyday life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 7

	Topic
Oct 9	FALL READING WEEK
Lecture	***NO CLASS***
Tutorial	***NONE***

	Topic
Oct 16	EXAMINATION
Lecture	***Mid-Term examination***
Tutorial	***NONE***

	Topic
Oct 23	COMMODITY CHAINS
Lecture - 1	Where does your breakfast come from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different commodities and capitalist system • Components of commodity chains • Structure and geography of commodity chains • Organization and regulation of commodity chains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 8
Oct 23	TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE
Lecture - 2	Is the world getting small? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technologies and time and space • Use of technologies to generate new products and production processes • Variable spatial impacts of technology on economic systems • Unevenness of geography of technology production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 9

	Topic
Oct 30	THE TRANSNATIONAL ECONOMY
Lecture	How does the global firm keep it all together? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transnational corporations and their global nature or otherwise • How firms organize complex global activities • Varieties of organizational forms used by TNCs • Limits to the global reach of large firms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 10
Tutorial (3)	

	Topic
Nov 6	SPACES OF SCALE
Lecture	How and where do we shop? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of retailing within the capitalist system • Changing geographies of retailing • Designs and management of retail spaces • Advertising industry and how they create and shape demand for goods and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 11
Tutorial (4)	

	Topic
Nov 13	CLUSTERS
Lecture	<p>Why do proximity and place matter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity and different kinds of economic activity • Forces that bind actors together in places • Different clusters in the global economy • Limitation of the cluster concept for understanding contemporary economic geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 12
Tutorial (5)	

	Topic
Nov 20	GENDERED ECONOMIES
Lecture	<p>Does gender shape economic lives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusion of certain kinds of works in conventional economic analyses • Gendered nature of the workforce and of workplaces • Connections between workplaces and homes • How gender shapes livelihoods and entrepreneurship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 13
Nov 20	ETHNIC ECONOMIES
Lecture	<p>Do cultures have economies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How ethnic identity shapes finding a job • Ethnically-based economies in immigrant cities • Transnational dimension s of ethnic businesses • Incorporation of ethnic identity as a factor in economic life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 14

	Topic
Nov 27	CONSUMPTION
Lecture	<p>You are what you buy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance of consumption processes within the capitalist system • Changing global landscape of consumption • Interrelation between consumption, place, and identity • Consumption politics • How places may be consumed through tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading: Chapter 15
Tutorial (6)	

	Topic
Dec 4	REVIEW - ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
Lecture	Intellectual journeys and future horizons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas in the field of economic geography • Ideas in the social and intellectual context of development • How new contexts and circumstances will change economic geography in the future
Tutorial	COURSE REVIEW EXAM MATTERS

8. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. For missed exams, you must take your documentation to Academic Counselling within 48 hours of the exam. Otherwise, the instructor will assign a grade of zero. The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

For Western's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC please refer to the [Academic Handbook](#).

9. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

10. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a [Scholastic Offence](#).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

11. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish

to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. [Information regarding accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "[Accessibility at Western](#)" is available.

12. Medical Issues

You can find Western's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC) in the [Academic Handbook](#). Student Services also provides information about the University's policy on [medical accommodation](#).

If you are seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for a missed test, exam, or assignment you must apply to the Academic Counselling office in your home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or by the Geography department.

In the event of illness be sure to contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. Counsellors will determine whether or not accommodation should be requested and will contact instructors about the accommodation. Once a decision about accommodation has been made, the student should contact instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

13. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

14. Support Services

[Student Support Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

15. Important Dates

September 6: Classes resume

September 14: Last day to add a full course or a second term half course

October 8: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 9-12: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

December 7: Classes end

December 8 and 9: Study days

December 10-21: Examination Period

December 21: Fall term ends