


GEOG 2420A: Economic Geography Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2020



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](https://www.uwo.ca/dse/) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus:
<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

Recommended technical specifications are available at:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html>

2. Course Information

Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Godwin Arku	Email within OWL	9:30am – 11:00am (Tuesdays)
Teaching Assistant	Contact Information	Office Hours
Merlin Chatwin	Email within OWL	12:30pm – 1:30pm (Tuesdays)

Office hours will be held remotely using email and if necessary, by Zoom appointment (made through an email).

Course Overview

The forces reshaping global economic geography; fundamentals of spatial economics; principles of locational decisions; spatial interaction; and growth of spatial economic systems are examined. Examples of these concepts are taken from a variety of countries.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 course from Geography 1100, Geography 1300A/B, Geography 1400F/G, Geography 1500F/G, Geography 2131A/B, Geography 2132A/B, Geography 2133A/B, Geography 2142A/B, Geography 2152F/G, 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*)

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 Readings

The required textbook for this course is:

Coe, N. M., Kelly, P. F. & Yeung, H. W. C. (2020) *Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction*. 3rd Edition. Wiley. It can be found online at the Western Bookstore.

4. Course Format

Recorded (asynchronous) Lectures

Lecture material and PowerPoints will be posted on OWL along with a video recording of the instructor lecturing on the various topics outlined in section 5. Lecture material will be posted on Tuesdays.

Group Forum Posts

On certain weeks (See section 5) each case study group will lead a forum discussion on OWL on an assigned topic. These forums will be led by the assigned group and require the rest of the class to contribute. These forum posts are due by the Tuesday at 11:55pm on OWL. Students will have until the following Wednesday to contribute.

Examinations

Examinations will take place through OWL and will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. Timing details will be announced by the instructor during the course. **For those students who require accommodation (including time zone restrictions), arrangements must be made with the professor 48 hrs before the exam.**

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Format and Location	Readings
1	Sept 15	Introductory Overview	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 1 – Lecture 1)	Chapter 1
2	Sept 22	Exploring the economy: What does it mean?	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 2 – Lecture 2)	Chapter 2
		Assignment #1 Introduction		
3	Sept 29	How is the world economy interconnected?	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 3 – Lecture 3)	Chapter 4
		Group 1 Forum Discussion (must be posted by 11:55 pm on Tuesday)		
4	Oct 6	Transnational Corporations: How do they keep it all together?	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 4 – Lecture 4-5)	Chapter 5-6
		Labour: Are Migrant Workers the new normal?		
		Groups 2 & 3 Forum Discussion (must be		



Week	Dates	Topic	Format and Location	Readings
		posted by 11:55 pm on Tuesday)		
5	Oct 13	Consumers: Who decides what we buy? Group 4 Forum Discussion (must be posted by 11:55 pm on Tuesday) Assignment 1 Due	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 5 – Lecture 6)	Chapter 7
6	Oct 20	Finance: How has capital become so powerful? Group 5 Forum Discussion (must be posted by 11:55 pm on Tuesday)	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 6 – Lecture 7)	Chapter 8
7	Oct 27	Mid Term Examination		
8	Nov 3	Fall Reading Break		
9	Nov 10	States: Who runs the economy? International Institutions: How do they govern and foster global development Groups 6, 7, & 8 Forum Discussion (must be posted by 11:55 pm on Tuesday)	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 9 – Lecture 8-9)	Chapter 9-10
10	Nov 17	Environment: Does Global Climate Change 'change' everything? Group 9 Forum Discussion (must be	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 10 – Lecture 10)	Chapter 11

Week	Dates	Topic	Format and Location	Readings
		posted by 11:55 pm on Tuesday)		
11	Nov 24	Clusters: Why do proximity and place matter? Group 10 Forum Discussion (must be posted by 11:55 pm on Tuesday)	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 11 – Lecture 11)	Chapter 12
12	Dec 1	Gendered and Racial Economies: Are economies gendered and racialized? Alternative Economies: Can we create diverse economies? Group 11 Forum Discussion (must be posted by 11:55 pm on Tuesday)	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 12 – Lecture 12-13)	Chapter 13-14
13	Dec 8	Review: Economy Geography Course Review Exam Tips	Recorded (OWL – Resources – Week 13 – Lecture 14)	

6. Communication

- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using OWL “messages”
- For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account

holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored every few days by the instructor

7. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Assignment 1	Online Submission	20%	October 13
Mid Term Examination	MC/Short Answer OWL	20%	October 20
Assignment 2	Online Submission	20%	November 17
Final Examination	MC/Short Answer OWL	35%	December TBD
Group Discussions and Reflections	OWL Forums	5%	Various Dates

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

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin

Information about late or missed evaluations:

Unless permission is granted students cannot absent themselves from VIRTUAL 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.

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 5 %/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class

- If the short examination is missed with a sufficient reason, a comparative alternative assessment will be given based on the discretion of the course instructor. The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

8. 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.

9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

10. Use of Recordings

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

11. Statements Concerning Online Etiquette

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Please “arrive” to class on time
- Please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak
- Please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
- Remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
- Self-identify when speaking
- Remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.

- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

12. 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>).

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Student Development Centre](#)

16. Important Dates

September 9: Classes resume

September 17: Last day to add a first term half course

October 12: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 2 to November 8: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

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

November 30: Last day to drop a full course without penalty

December 9: Classes end

December 10: Study day

December 11-22: Examination Period