

Department of Geography
Geography 300: Economic Geography

Course Instructor: Dr. James C. Saku

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Office Location: GU 232

Office Hours: 8:00-8:50 a.m. M, 11:00-11:50 am MW, 9.30-10.30 am TR or by appointment.

Lecture Hours: TR 11:00-12:15 pm

Lecture Room: GU 204

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Course Description

The distribution of world economic activities. Agriculture, mining, the manufacturing industries.

Course Objectives

1. Introduce students to basic economic theory.
2. Examine global inequality in economic development.
3. Examine the relationship between demand, supply, and price.
4. Examine the theory of international trade.
5. Explore the evolution and functions of regional trading blocks.
6. Examine the factors that affect the location of industries.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the class students will have to demonstrate their understanding and competence in the following:

1. The effect of globalization on economic systems.
2. The impact of population on economic development.
3. An understanding of the factors affecting the location of industries.
4. The relationship between resources and the environment.
5. The relationship between price, demand, and supply.
6. Submit an excellent paper on any aspect of economic geography.

Required text:

Stutz P. Frederick and Warf Barney (2007). **The World Economy: Resources, Location, Trade and Development.** Prentice-Hall, New Jersey.

Grading: All in-class tests and final examination will consist of multiple choice and short questions and answers. Prior approval is required for missing an examination. No make-up examinations will be granted if you fail to seek prior approval.

The final grade will consist of the following. These dates are tentative and subject to change.

Class attendance	= 20 points
Group project on International Organizations (11/10 and 11/12)	= 50 points
Three unannounced quizzes	= 75 points
Book chapter review (09/15/08)	= 50 points
Annotated Bibliography (10/15/08)	= 50 points
Term paper (12/4/08)	= 100 points
Test 1 (10/1)	= 100 points
Test 2 (10/5)	= 100 points
Final examination (12/17/08, 8:00 -10:30 am)	= 100 points

The final grade is based on the total points accumulated over a maximum of 645 points. The scale and grades are as follows:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F < 60%

Academic dishonesty

Note that academic dishonesty including plagiarism and cheating during examination is a serious offence and carries severe penalty. Refer to the **Pathfinder** and the *Department of Geography Plagiarism Policy* posted on Blackboard for details.

Disruptive Student behavior

Please refer to the **Pathfinder** for details

Policy

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and participate actively during class discussions. Attendance will be recorded and failure to attend classes will result in the loss of marks. Your attendance grade will be based on the total number of days present over the expected number of days multiplied by 20. For example, if you were required to be in class for 16 days within the semester, and you were present for 16 days, your attendance grade will be $(16/16) \times 20 = 20$ points. **Students are responsible for informing the instructor of their presence if they arrive after attendance has been taken.** You are strongly encouraged to use office hours or set up an appointment to discuss your grades with me during the semester. If you need help, ask early.

It is expected that all written work will conform to high standards of grammar and style. Bad grammar and style will be penalized. The writing centre in Pullen Hall will be willing to review your work before it is submitted to the instructor.

Cell phones and pagers

Cell phones and pagers should be turned off when you come to class. Answering cell phones or checking text messages in class is disrespectful to me and your fellow students. Exception is given to a certified EMT or fire responder. Please inform me ahead of time if you need to have your beeper active all the time because of your profession or special circumstances.

Blackboard

Course materials are posted on Blackboard. You are required to visit the site frequently to check on announcements and deadlines. You can also check your grades and average from the grade book.

Group Project

All students are required to participate in a group project. Details of the project are posted on Blackboard and hard copies handed out in class.

Book chapter review

Each student is required to review and provide critical comments on a book chapter. The title of the chapter is "Inventing Anglo-American Economic Geography, 1889-1960" from **A companion to Economic Geography** 2003, Sheppard, Eric and Barnes, Trevor J (eds). The award of marks for the review will be determined by the quality of the review. The criteria will include a demonstrated understanding of the issues raised in the chapter, critical appraisal, logic, and clarity of presentation of material.

The details of the assignment are posted on Blackboard and copies will be given out in class.

Annotated bibliography

All students are required to use Research Port, an electronic information resource in the library to search for five journal or Internet articles on any topic on economic geography. While it is recommended that your articles cover a variety of topics, you can also limit the five articles to one topic, i.e., all the articles may be limited to for example "Economic Development of Third World Countries". Research Port may be accessed through <http://researchport.umd.edu>. You need to be a registered user of Frostburg State University library in order to have access to Research Port.

The details of this assignment are on Blackboard.

General Course Outline and Reading (tentative and subject to change)

1: Economic Geography: An introduction (Reading: Chapter 1) 09/1 and 09/3

economic geography examined: logical positivism, location theory (spatial integration and spatial interaction), behavioural geographers, humanistic, structuralist, poststructuralists, globalization: globalization of world economy, political economies.

2: The Historical Development of Capitalism (Reading Chapter 2) 09/08 and 09/10

Feudalism and the birth of capitalism, emergence and nature of capitalism, the industrial revolution, colonialism on a world scale.

3: Resources and Environment (Reading: Chapter 4) 09/15 and 09/17

Carrying capacity and over population, types of resources and their limits, renewable and non-renewable, energy resources, energy options – conservation, nuclear, geothermal, hydropower, solar energy, wind power, biomass.

4. Population and world economy (Reading: Chapter 3) 09/22 and 09/24

Global population distribution, population growth overtime, population structure – population pyramid and population change.

Examination 1: 10/1 (Tentative)

5: Theoretical considerations (Reading: Chapter 5) 10/6 and 10/8

Factors of location, land, labor, capital, managerial and technical skills, The Weberian model – raw material, localized, pure material, scale of production, growth of firms, geographic organization of corporations.

6: Global agricultural system and Land Use (Reading: Chapter 6) 10/13 and 10/15

The rise of agriculture, the industrialization of agriculture, factors affecting rural landuse, The Von Thunen model and the law of diminishing returns, calculating location rent.

7. Manufacturing (Reading Chapter 7) 10/20 and 10/22

The nature of manufacturing, concentration of world industries – North America, Europe, Japan, Globalization of manufacturing, the changing nature of U.S. manufacturing industry.

8: The Geography of Price Regulation (Reading on Reserve) 10/27 and 10/29

basic concepts -- price and scarcity relationship between price and demand, relationship between price and supply, equilibrium market price, price elasticity demand and supply, types of elasticity pricing under imperfect market - monopoly, oligopoly, monopsony, oligopsony other methods of price control (base point and uniform pricing)

Examination 2 11/5 (Tentative)

9: Group project presentation: 11/10 and 11/12

10: Services (Reading Chapter 8) 11/17 and 11/19

Defining services, factors affecting the growth of services, financial services, sectoral studies in producer services.

11: International Trade and Investment (Reading Chapter 12) 11/24 and 12/1

Trade by barter and money, absolute and comparative advantage, international money and capital market, foreign direct investment, barriers to international trade, trade protectionism, reduction of trade barriers.

12. Thanksgiving break – 11/25

13: International Business (Reading Chapter 13) 12/3 and 12/8

multinational economic organizations (IMF, International bank for reconstruction)
regional economic integration -- The European Union, North American Free Trade Agreement, OPEC, World Trade Organization.

**13: Summing it up: Review of class activities and questions for class improvement
12/10**