

GEO 230 ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY: FALL 2009
Shippensburg University, Geography & Earth Science Department

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Office Hours:	T: 1:45p-4:45p W: 1:00p-2:00p R: 1:45p-2:45p
Notes: Office hours during finals week are by appointment only. Other changes will be announced.	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Economic Geography. This course combines elements of multiple disciplines including: geography, economics, and business. Our primary concerns are to investigate how economic activity is distributed across space, the reasons why such activity is distributed as it is, and the continuous processes, flows and mechanisms of change that serve to modify the spatial organization of this activity at a variety of scales across the globe.

We will be covering a wide range of topics including: regional economic analysis; economic development; patterns of industrial location; natural resources and environmental issues; transportation modes, systems, and networks; and others. We will look at how the processes associated with these topics vary across space--across different countries, regions, and cities of the world. Further, we will also examine these issues over time in order to forge a better understanding of the contemporary global economy.

Our focus will be both theoretical and applied. Throughout the semester, you will be exposed to the "vocabulary" of economic geographers, as well as to a number of important models and theories relating to patterns in the space-economy. We will investigate and discuss "real-world" patterns and case studies and relate what we find to theory. In addition, you will have an opportunity to apply what we have learned in the context of original research projects that will involve the collection and analysis of data, and the distribution of your findings in written, graphical, and presentation format.

CLASS ORGANIZATION / ASSESSMENT

Required Readings:

(a) There is no standard textbook for this course. All required readings will be found either on class hand-outs or through on-line versions of newspapers, and various other web-sites. Some on-line sources may require you to set up a username and/or password in order to access them and may be time sensitive (that is, they may be available to you for free for only limited amounts of time). It will be your responsibility to keep up with these readings and access them in a timely fashion. I will not be providing copies to you.

(b) From time to time I place short videos on my website (or links to them). In addition, some video material may be assigned that is available on iTunes. All are required viewing, and more information on these items will be provided in class.

Exams (50% of your total course grade):

Two exams will be given during the semester. They will include a mix of many different types of questions including multiple-choice, fill in the blank, short answer, problems, etc. Exams will include questions from lectures, readings, handouts, videos and relevant material from the projects / presentations. If you do not complete the readings, you will do very poorly on the exams. There are no make-ups unless you have received prior approval

Projects / Presentations (35% of your total course grade):

Acting as a consultant, you will be responsible for completing two written research projects as well as developing a professional 15-20 minute talk which will be presented to the class. Each project is about 5 written pages plus several attachments (usually graphs, charts, maps etc.) You will be working in groups of three (3). There are several components to your completion of these research projects – each of which

will be graded.

(1) Annotated bibliography: Several weeks before each project is due, your group will turn in an annotated bibliography of the sources that will be used to complete your project. Your bibliographies will be graded on a 0-10 scale and together the two bibliographies will account for 5% of your final course grade.

(2) Final Written Projects. These are group projects, and each group will complete two (2). Your average on the two papers will be worth 25% of your course final grade.

(3) Presentation. Your presentation, which you will be making with your group, will be based upon **one** of your two research projects. Please note: your attendance is **REQUIRED** during all presentation days, even when you are not presenting. You and your colleagues will have worked hard on your projects, and you **must** be in class to show your support and to complete peer evaluations. *If you miss class on a presentation day, you will receive an automatic "F" for the course. No exceptions.* You will receive more information and detail regarding the specific nature of the assignments and presentations in class. Your presentation is worth 5% of your final grade.

Small Assignments (15% of your total course grade):

From time to time I will be giving you short homework problems, quizzes, or other assignments that you will need to complete in order to keep up with the class and to help you prepare for your projects, presentations, and exams. You should consider EVERYTHING that I ask you to do a "small assignment". These will be graded variously – based on the extent to which you have completed the work, the quality and content of your work, and your timeliness in completing the work. In total, this is worth 15% of your grade.

Attendance/ Classroom Performance

Attendance is required, and my analyses of student grades in the past have shown that there is a strong correlation between attendance levels and course performance. I will be taking attendance and/or asking you to complete small assignments for class discussion that I will usually collect. Students with poor attendance records will receive a reduced course grade (up to and including an "F") at my discretion, regardless of other performance. Disruptive behavior of any form will not be tolerated and will result in severe course grade reductions and/or expulsion from the course. I DO expect you to participate in this class and to have fun; I simply ask that you do so in a thoughtful, respectful, and inclusive way at appropriate times.

GRADING SUMMARY

Final Grade =

Average on exams = 50% of your final grade
projects/presentations = 35% of your final grade, comprised of:
5% Annotated bibliographies
5% Presentation
25% Projects

small assignments = 15% of your final grade
Total = 100%

+ or - subjective increase or decrease in grade at my discretion based on attendance, classroom performance, etc.
EQUALS FINAL COURSE SCORE

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 93+
A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86
B- = 80-82
C+ = 76-79
C = 70-75
D = 60-69
F = < 60

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. For your privacy, *I do not* discuss grades over the telephone or via E-mail, so please do not ask. I do not respond to E-mail or phone calls asking for such information. Your grades will be posted on Blackboard as possible.
2. If a due date (e.g., exam, project, etc.) is missed due to a University closure (for weather or other reasons), the activity will be due / made-up *during the first class period after the closure* – so come prepared. ONLY the President's office decides if the University will be closed, and class will or will not be held on the basis of the President's decision. Information is available at 477-1200.
3. I expect your work in all facets of this course to adhere to University and Geography Earth-Science Department standards of academic honesty. If you are unfamiliar with University policies regarding such matters, please review your University catalog. If you have any questions, please ask me. Each assignment and all other work that you submit must be signed and dated on the top of the first page by you to certify that: (a) the work that you have submitted is your own; (b) that you understand Shippensburg University's policies regarding academic honesty; and, (c) that your work is not in violation of these rules. ***Your work will not be accepted without these signatures.***
4. There will be no make-up exams / projects unless you have my prior approval. If I approve a make-up exam for you, it will be administered prior to the main exam time. The format of make-up exams is at my discretion, and may differ significantly from the exam the rest of the class takes. In all cases, prior approval means that you have spoken with me in person, and that I have approved your request. It does not mean a message left on my answering machine or an e-mail.
5. The use of cell phones, iPods, etc. during class is disruptive to everyone. These items must be switched off prior to class, ***PUT AWAY OFF YOUR DESK***, and may not be used for any purpose during our class period. You will receive a ½ letter grade reduction in your final course grade without warning for each instance you I see your phone/iPod/other device.
6. Accommodations can be made for those students with documented disabilities and who wish accommodations to be made. PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING BY THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES so that we can discuss your situation and make arrangements that fit your personal needs:
 - (a) Schedule an appointment with me and, in preparation for our meeting, please:
 - (b) *Write* down some suggestions that will allow us to structure a way for you to: maximize your class participation; complete the readings, assignments, and examinations to the best of your ability and in a comfortable way; and/or attend to any other issues that are relevant in your particular case.If you expect to be absent for the observance of *specific religious holidays*, please provide me, in writing (not by e-mail or phone), with the dates on which you will be absent **BY THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES**.
7. We all know special circumstances arise in all of our lives. If issues come up that you believe will affect your performance in the course PLEASE, PLEASE, come to see me as soon as possible. IF we talk early, there are often things we can do to work through those issues. If you wait until the end of the semester, there will be little I can do to help.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings will be updated every class and daily on-line. Assignments will be handed out in class or made available on the Web as we complete the relevant material – they will be *the next class period after they are assigned unless otherwise instructed.*

Date	Topic	Other / Description
T Sep 01	Introduction and concepts	
R Sep 03	Concepts: The costs of space	Group and Country Assignments
T Sep 08	Patterns in the Global Economy: Luck	
R Sep 10	Patterns in the Global Economy: Historical Perspective	How did the world get "this" way?
T Sep 15	Patterns in the Global Economy: Historical Perspective	
R Sep 17	Patterns in the Global Economy: Cycles, stages	Annotated Bibliography Due
T Sep 22	Patterns of Economic Growth & Dev.	
R Sep 24	Patterns of Economic Growth & Dev.	PROJECT# 2 Topics Due
T Sep 29	Patterns of Economic Growth & Dev.	
R Oct 01	Patterns of Economic Growth & Dev.	PROJECT#1 DUE
T Oct 06	Wrap-up / tie-up loose ends	
R Oct 08	EXAM #1	EXAM #1
T Oct 13	**NO CLASS**	**FALL BREAK**
R Oct 15	Student Presentations / Exam Review	Student Presentations / Exam Review
T Oct 20	Student Presentations / Exam Review	Student Presentations / Exam Review
R Oct 22	Local and Regional Analysis	Regional Economy -- Overview
T Oct 27	Local and Regional Analysis	Regional Economy – Sectors and Analysis
R Oct 29	Local and Regional Analysis	Economic Base
T Nov 03	Local and Regional Analysis (TBD)	Annotated Bibliography Due
R Nov 05	Local and Regional Analysis (TBD)	
T Nov 10	Local and Regional Analysis	
R Nov 12	Case Studies: Real people in real places	
T Nov 17	Case Studies: Real people in real places	
R Nov 19	Case Studies: Real people in real places	PROJECT#2 DUE
T Nov 24	Transport & Industry location	
R Nov 26	**NO CLASS**	**THANKSGIVING**
T Dec 01	Transport & Industry Location	
R Dec 03	Transport & Industry Location	
T Dec 08	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
R Dec 10	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
Finals Wk	Exam #2 as scheduled by University	

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____

I have read this syllabus and understand the course requirements including, among others:

- a) Requirement for attendance;
- b) Requirement for academic honesty;
- c) Requirement for acceptable projects (stapled, typed, handed in at beginning of class, etc);
- d) Requirement to take all exams at the required date and time;
- e) Requirement to switch off and put away cell phones, iPods, etc. every class;
- f) Plan for making up work due to University closure;

I understand the grading scheme of the course and how my failure to follow course guideline may affect my grades for individual items and my final course grade. I also realize that should I have any questions about the course syllabus I may ask my Professor for clarification.