ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:10 – 3:30 pm

Course Objectives

Economic geography combines elements of geography, economics, and business to analyze development matters. The purpose of development is to improve quality of life, for example, by providing jobs, housing, clean water and air, cheap transport, etc. This course will examine the various mechanisms and forces that have an impact on development. Whether development takes place depends on social, economic, political and environmental issues which may hinder or assist in achieving economic progress, hence, we will pay particular attention to these issues. We will also study the ways in which economic activity is distributed across space, the reasons why such activity is distributed as it is, and the continuous processes of change that serve to modify the spatial organization of economic activity across the globe. In addition, we will analyze how various nations and regions of the world have managed to achieve economic progress, and examine why some of them have been more successful than others in achieving economic growth and change. Finally we will explore solutions offered by scholars on how less developed countries can achieve economic growth. Our focus will be both theoretical and applied.

Required Text

The World Economy: Resources, Location, Trade and Development

By Frederick P. Stutz and Barney Warf,

ISBN: 0-13-147804-4
Publisher: Prentice Hall
Copyright: 2005
Expectations
(1) Read the assigned readings before each class
(2) Attend each class meeting
(3) Three in-class tests
(4) Quizzes
(5) Group internet assignments
(6) Participate in field work
(7) Final group project

Please note there will be no make-up tests/quizzes/project; two of the in-class tests will count towards your final grade, therefore, the instructor will drop your lowest test score. The number and frequency of quizzes will be at the discretion of the instructor. The internet assignments should be done on time and you are all expected to read them. The internet assignments are due on Thursdays before class, and they will help us keep up with current global-economic events related to this course. The lecture will come from the text book and other sources. The tests and quizzes will come from lecture, the textbook, internet assignments and the field work.

Academic code of student conduct
Academic cheating: this is any intentional act(s) of dishonesty in the fulfillment of academic course or program requirements. This offense shall include (but is not limited to) utilization of the assistance of any additional individual(s), organization, document, or other aid not specifically and expressly authorized by the instructor or department involved. (Note: This infraction assumes that with the exception of authorized group assignments or group take home assignments, all course or program assignments shall be completed by an individual student only without any consultation or collaboration with any other individual, organization, or aid).

Plagiarism: this is taking and passing off intentionally as one’s own the ideas, writings, etc. of another without attribution (without acknowledging the author).

Grading
Tests: 20% each
Quizzes: 20%
Field Work: 35%
Group assignments & Project: 5%
Total: 100%

Students with Disabilities
In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of the Dean for Special Student Services. The Dean of Special Student Services can be reached at (202) 238-2420.
Schedule

**Week 1**
January 5: Introductions
Send me your e-mail at the address above

**Week 2**
January 10: Chapter 1: Economic Geography: An Introduction
January 12: Chapter 2: The historical development of capitalism

**Week 3**
January 17: Chapter 3: Population
January 19: Chapter 4: Resources and Environment
Internet assignments due

**Week 4**
January 24: Chapter 4: Resources and Environment
January 26: Test #1

**Week 5**
January 31: Chapter 5: Theoretical Considerations
February 2: Chapter 6: Agriculture
Internet assignments due

**Week 6**
February 7: Guest Speaker: Dr. Tony Hebert (HUD)
February 9: Chapter 7: Manufacturing

**Week 7**
February 14: Guest Speaker Dr. Bessie Swann Wheeler Creek CDC
February 16: Chapter 8: Services
Internet assignments due

**Week 8**
February 21: Guest Speaker Janice Burgess (DCHA)
February 23: Test #2

**Week 9**
February 28: Chapter 9 Transportation and Communications
March 2: Chapter 10: Cities and Urban Economies
Internet assignments due

**Week 10**
March 7: Group Project Meetings
March 9: Group Project Meetings
**Week 11**
March 14: Spring Break  
March 16: Spring Break

**Week 12**
March 21: Field Work  
March 23: Field Work

**Group Meetings**

**Week 13**
March 28: Field Work  
March 30: Field Work

**Group Meetings**

**Week 14**
April 4: Field Work  
April 6: Field Work

**Group Meetings**

**Week 15**
April 11: Chapter 11: International Trade and Investment  
April 13: Chapter 12: International Trade Patterns

**Internet assignments due**

**Week 16**
April 18: Chapter 13: Development and Underdevelopment in the Developing World  
April 20: Chapter 13: Development and Underdevelopment in the Developing World

**Week 17**
April 25: Group Project Presentations

**Group Projects Due**

April 27: Test #3

**Assessment**

*Tests and quizzes*: Students will be tested and quizzed on material from lecture, the textbook, internet assignments, and assigned readings. Students will be expected to cover topics that illustrate why certain regions/countries have managed to maintain sustained economic growth while others have failed; and why some countries have managed to achieve high levels of development while others have failed.

*Field Work*: Each student is expected to attend the field trips and participate in the activities. After each field trip, students will be expected to prepare a paper that documents their activities and findings. This paper will be included in the final group project.
**Internet assignments:** After each internet assignment is submitted, students will be expected to read the assignment and be able to state the theme covered, the region/country the story originated from and summarize the article. Students submitting the article should focus on their particular region and not countries in other regions, therefore, students are also expected to know the countries in their region. The internet articles should deal with economic issues.

**Final Group project:** Towards the end of the semester, each group is expected to put together a report which will include research findings from the field work.

N.B.: This schedule is tentative and subject to change
Instructions for the Internet Assignments

Regions:
(1) Sub-Saharan Africa
(2) Middleast (Northern Africa and Southwestern Asia)
(3) Latin America
(4) Canada & Europe
(5) Russia and its Neighbors {Commonwealth of Independent States}
(6) East Asia
(7) South Asia
(8) Southeast Asia and South Pacific

Assignment:
1) Visit any news website, BBC World Service and CNN are pretty good

2) Pick a news item that covers economics:

Please rotate the countries in the region so that you cover a different country during each assignment, therefore, double check on what your group did last and pick any country that has not been covered.

3) Read the news item and print out the website page

4) Send the class an e-mail with the following:
   a) The title of your news item
   b) The website address where the news item is located
   c) Type your full names and the role of each member in your group
   d) If these instructions are not followed your group will not get full credit for the assignment. Note each group sends out one news item per assignment period.

DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE NEWS ITEM. THE REST OF THE CLASS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VISITING THE WEBSITE AND READING THE ARTICLE

5) On the Thursday the assignment is due, hand in a print out of the story with your group name on it, the week the assignment is due, and the duties of everyone in the group. Do not send out an assignment after the due date.

6) Also on Thursday hand in a sheet listing all previous internet assignments, that is, the countries previously covered and the headline of the article.

7) Do not send out an e-mail earlier than the Saturday before the week the assignment is due.

I expect everyone in the group to participate, if not please let me know via e-mail or talk to me in person.