



LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

ECON 10 – Economic Geography

Spring Semester 2012 Course Syllabus

3 units (45 lecture hours), Tuesday 9 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Assoc. Prof. Elena Givental
egivental@lincolnuca.edu

Office Hours: Tue. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: TBA

Course Description:

Interrelated study of the economic potential and history of various areas of the world, including United States. The course also considers the reciprocal relationship between the economic activities of man and earth surface features, population, human production, consumption, distribution. Analysis of the natural and economic functions and correlation of the diverse relationship recognized.

This course combines elements of geography, economics, and business to analyze global and regional development trends. It examines various mechanisms and forces that have an impact on development in our globalized world. The course deals with the ways in which economic activity is distributed across space, the reasons for this distribution, and the trends in continuous processes of global change. Finally, it analyzes how various nations and regions of the world manage to achieve economic growth and explores solutions for less developed countries to succeed in sustainable development. The course emphasizes the economic challenges of the 21st century including globalization, free trade, corporate governance, immigration and outsourcing, energy production and consumption, renewable energy sources, regional dimensions of development, and elimination of poverty.

ECON10 Economic Geography satisfies the General Education course requirements.

Required Textbook:

The World Economy: Geography, Business, Development 6th Edition (2012) by Frederick P. Stutz and Barney Warf (published by Pearson Prentice Hall); ISBN-10: 0321722507, ISBN-13: 9780321722508

Course Learning Goals and Outcomes:

1. Develop knowledge of the distribution of world's resources and economic activity
2. Understand the diversity of perspectives towards global development
3. Analyze various policies and business management issues in their relationship to the distribution of resources, economic activity, and pockets of development and underdevelopment
4. Develop critical thinking skills in application of economic geography to business decision making

Methods of Instruction: Class meetings combine lectures, discussions, individual and group activities, case studies, and written tests. All lectures are accompanied by power-point presentations. Group study and collaborations are encouraged. You will be provided with lecture notes posted in the class folder accessible from the computer lab. Below is the description of grading policy, exams and assignments you will have in this class.

Grading: 300 points total

Five quizzes	50 points	Multiple choice, 10 questions each
Two midterms	80 points	Multiple choice, short answers
Final in-class exam	80 points	Multiple choice, short answers, essay
Research Paper	50 points	Selected topic of your choice
Group Project	30 points	Class presentation; details will be discussed in class
Class attendance	10 points	

Grading Policy:

		96-100%	A	90-95%	A-
88-89%	B+	82-87%	B	80-81%	B-
78-79%	C+	72-77%	C	70-71%	C-
66-69%	D+	60-65%	D		
		less than 60%	F		

2 Midterms, 40 points each

Each midterm will cover the material from specific parts of the course to check your understanding of the major concepts used in economic geography and your ability to apply them to the global economic processes. Exam questions will be multiple-choice, true-false, and short paragraph answers based on lecture material and readings from your textbook. Both exams will be intended for the first half of the class time.

Final Exam (80 points)

The final in-class exam will be cumulative, covering new material as well as the most important economic geography concepts, global trends, and practical applications studied throughout the entire course. Exam questions will be multiple-choice, open-ended questions, and short essays based on lecture material and readings from your textbook.

Research Paper (4-5 pages, 50 points)

The research paper involves a description and partial analysis of one of the elements of economic structure (natural resources, human resources, an industrial sector, agriculture, transportation network, etc.) of your choice in a particular country of the world. The paper should include a short geographic background of the country (demographic, historical, environmental, political, cultural, etc.) as well as a description of the selected element with your analysis of its significance or deficiencies. All sources should be cited properly and the reference list should be attached.

Due April 10

Group Project Presentations, April 17.

The topics for the presentations, as well as the size of each group and the presentation format will be determined later and discussed in class.

Class Rules:

No cell phone calls or text messaging in class

Class begins promptly at 9 a.m.

Late arrivals (over 15 minutes) will be reported as class absences

Make-up quizzes can be taken during office hours

A deduction of 5 points will be made for each late assignment

Plagiarism* or cheating will result in Zero grade for that test or assignment

***Plagiarism** means using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another person without proper acknowledgement or reference

TOPICS, READINGS, TEST SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

Jan. 17 Intro to Economic Geography; Historical Development of Capitalism

The basics: what is the world economy? What should be produced and how? What is globalization? World development problems: environmental constraints, disparities in wealth. The changing global economic map in the 21st century. The emergence of a world economic system: hunting, farming, city civilization, feudalism, wealth accumulation and trade, mass migrations. The emergence and nature of capitalism. The Industrial Revolution and industrialization, growth of

global markets and international trade, colonialism, and transplantation of the nation-state. Cycles of industrialization.

READ: *Textbook Chapters 1-2. Lecture notes.*

Jan. 24 World Population

Global population distribution and density. Population growth and factors affecting population growth and distribution. Malthusian theory. Demographic Transition model. Migration and its consequences. Patterns of migration. Population structure. Baby Boom and its impacts.

READ: *Textbook Chapter 3. Lecture notes.*

Jan. 31 Primary Economic Activities: Resource Extraction.
Energy Production. Environmental Change

Types of resources and their limits. Renewable and nonrenewable resources. Nonrenewable mineral resources: location and projected reserves. Environmental change due to mineral extraction. Energy: production and consumption, energy options (nuclear, geothermal, solar, wind, biomass, hydropower), energy conservation. Regional dimensions of environmental degradation. Possibilities for sustainable development. Natural resources and geopolitics.

Quiz #1 (chapters 1-3)

READ: *Textbook Chapter 4. Lecture notes.*

Feb. 7 Factors of Location, Firm Growth, TNCs and States

Factors determining location decisions of firms: labor, land, capital, skills, technological innovation. The Weberian Model application and limitations. The role of state in a globalized economy. Technology: the engine of change. Transnational Corporations: the primary "movers and shapers" of global economy. Relationship between MNCs and states.

Quiz # 2 (chapters 3-4)

READ: *Textbook Chapter 5. Lecture notes.*

Feb. 14 Midterm #1; Agricultural Sector and Rural Land Use

Midterm #1 - chapters 1-5

Industrialization of agriculture. Systems of agricultural production: subsistent and commercial agriculture. Geography of grain farming, dairy farming, cattle ranching. Agricultural policies. Increasing food production and the environmental impact of agriculture.

READ: *Textbook Chapter 6. Lecture notes.*

Feb. 21 Secondary Economic Activities: Manufacturing

The nature of manufacturing and its changing geography. Globalization of manufacturing. Global shifts in different sectors. Flexible manufacturing. Case studies: the Textiles and Garments Industries, the Automobile Industry, the Semiconductor Industry. Regional restructuring in Europe, North America and East Asia.

READ: *Textbook Chapter 7. Lecture notes.*

Feb. 28 Tertiary Sector of the Economy: Services

Forces driving the growth of services. Producer and consumer services. Demand for health service and education. Accounting, design, and legal services. Services productivity and labor market characteristics. Technological change in services. Case study: The Financial Services Industries.

Quiz # 3 (chapters 6-7)

READ: *Textbook Chapter 8. Lecture notes.*

Mar. 6 Transportation and Communications

Transportation infrastructure in historical perspective. Properties of transport costs. Transportation policies. Telecommunications: fiber-optic and satellite systems, the Internet. Regional discrepancies in Internet access. E-commerce: a new logistics revolution. Future impacts of information technologies.

READ: *Textbook Chapter 9. Lecture notes.*

Mar. 20 Geography of Cities and Urban Economies

The rise of the modern city. Urban spatial organization: the Concentric Ring Model, the Multiple-Nuclei Model. Metropolis: patterns and problems. Suburbanization and inner-city decline, gentrification. Global cities.

Quiz # 4 (chapters 8-9)

Research paper proposal due

READ: *Textbook Chapter 10. Lecture notes.*

Mar. 27 Midterm #2; World Consumption

Midterm #2 (chapters 6-10)

Consumption in the historical, geographical, and economics theory contexts. Environmental dimensions of consumption.

READ: *Textbook Chapter 11. Lecture notes.*

Apr. 3 International Trade and Investment: Overview

Intro to international trade. Comparative advantage and competitive advantage of nations. Factor-Proportions Theory. Financing international trade. Capital flows and FDI's. Barriers to international trade and investment: tariffs and quotas.

Group project proposals due

READ: *Textbook Chapter 12. Lecture notes.*

Apr. 10 International Trade Patterns

Reduction of trade barriers: WTO. Regional economic integration: the European Union, NAFTA. Cartels: OPEC. Emerging markets. World patterns of trade. Case studies of Germany, Japan, Brazil, China, India, and Russia. Major trade commodity groups.

Quiz # 5 (chapters 11, 12, pp. 313-334; Lectures 10-11)

Research Papers Due

READ: *Textbook Chapter 13. Lecture notes.*

Apr. 17 Group Project Presentations

Apr. 24 Development and Underdevelopment in the Developing World

Economic development indicators: GDP per capita, labor force structure, educational level, health, consumer goods produced, HDI. Making a living in developed countries: regional inequalities, unemployment, transnationalization of production, problems of migration. Problems of underdevelopment and development strategies: sustainable economic growth and equity in newly industrialized economies; survival and poverty reduction in the least developed countries.

Quiz # 6 (chapter 13)

READ: *Textbook Chapter 14. Lecture notes.*

Tuesday, May 1 FINAL IN-CLASS EXAM

Updated December 8, 2011