

GEO 3502: Economic Geography

University of Florida • Department of Geography

Online Sections **19022/19023**

Course Description

This course is a comprehensive geographical survey of major economic activities such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing and commerce. Emphasis will be upon the study of the characteristics of distribution and the regional patterns of these activities.

Course Objectives

- Understand the genesis, development, and evolution of economic geography as a field
- Obtain an understanding of major forms of economic activity and processes
- Learn to critically analyze economic issues from a geographic standpoint

Course Materials

- Trevor Barnes & Brett Christophers. 2018. *Economic geography: a critical introduction*. Hoboken, NJ : John Wiley & Sons.
- E-book available for reading at UF Libraries Catalogue:
<https://uf.catalog.fcla.edu/uf.jsp?ix=kw&st=9781118874301&V=D&S=0301534342496567&l=0#top> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- Niccol, Andrew, Dir. 2005. *Lord of War*. Lions Gate Films.
- Additional materials including videos and readings will be posted on Canvas.

General Requirements

Requirements for this course include participation in discussions across the ten content units, ten quizzes, a project, a final exam, and a short review essay. We will discuss current events as they relate to the global economy in class so it is important to read a newspaper with international coverage regularly (*The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, etc.).

NOTE: Make-ups cannot be given, except in documented emergencies in which the instructor has been contacted in advance or as soon afterwards as possible. Requests for such exceptions must be submitted in writing, with full explanations and documentation attached. The format of any make-up will be at my discretion. The penalty for non-exam work turned in late is 10% of the total possible points per day late.

Assessment and Grades

Due dates for all assignments will be posted on Canvas. You should always refer to the online schedule on our class' Canvas page as that will contain the most up-to-date information.

- **Quizzes – 25%**

Each unit of class will have a quiz covering the content of the readings, videos, and other materials for that part of the class. Questions will be some combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank questions. Quizzes are open book but are timed. Once started, a quiz's time cannot be extended for any reason.

- **Final Exam – 15%**

As with the quizzes, the questions on the final exam will be some combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank questions. Content will be cumulative, but will be weighted towards material covered in the latter part of class.

- **Discussions – 30%**

Each unit of class will have an extended discussion assignment requiring you to engage with the material and your fellow students. These assignments are the primary way we will interact with each other as we consume, digest, and critique the course's material.

- **Film Review Essay – 15%**

You will write a critical review of the film *Lord of War*. The film focuses on a fictionalized, somewhat fantastic story of an arms dealer. Your critique should examine how well the film presents the realities of the arms trade, and the merits of what it has to say about this illegal/illicit economic activity. The minimum length is 1,000 words..

- **Final Project – 15%**

We will complete a final project following at the end of the semester. This project will require you to critically analyze the process of globalization as it interacts with and is impacted by other economic activities.

Grading Scale

Grades will be on a 100-point scale. Final marks will be determined from the following scale:

Numerical grade (n)	Letter Grade
$93 \leq n \leq 100$	A
$90 \leq n < 93$	A-
$87 \leq n < 90$	B+
$82 \leq n < 87$	B
$80 \leq n < 82$	B-
$77 \leq n < 80$	C+
$70 \leq n < 77$	C
$67 \leq n < 70$	C-
$62 \leq n < 67$	D+
$60 \leq n < 62$	D
$0 \leq n < 60$	E

Class Units and Schedule of Topics

Part 1: Thinking Critically About Economic Geography

- Module 1 – Introducing Economic Geography
- Module 2 – History of Economic Geographic Thought
- Module 3 – Theories of Economic Geography
- Module 4 – Methodologies of Economic Geography

Part 2: Applications and Manifestations of Economic Geography

- Module 5 – Globalization
- Module 6 – Uneven Development
- Module 7 – Money and Finance
- Module 8 – Cities and Urbanization
- Module 9 – Nature and the Environment
- Module 10 – Industrial and Technological Change

Academic Integrity

You should read the University's Guide to academic honesty, which is available online at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php>. Plagiarism and other violations of academic honesty are unacceptable. If you are found to have cheated, you will be penalized by the reduction of your course grade, and may be subject to further penalties. You should expect the minimum penalty to be a failing grade for the course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodations.

Statement on Intellectual Property Rights

Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

Course Attendance, Make-Ups, etc.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

UF Grading Policies

University policy on grade point averages for courses is available at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>