Economic Geography
Geography 3502: 3 Credits
Section: 1E89
Turlington Hall (TUR): Room 3012
Fall 2013

Course Meeting Times: (Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Period 6: 12:50 – 1:40 p.m.)

Instructor: Matt McKay

*IMPORTANT NOTE: This course will fulfill the University of Florida’s Writing and Math Requirement (formerly Gordon Rule), as it means that students in this course are required to write 6,000 words in assignments throughout the semester.

For more information on the Writing and Math Requirement, please examine the following link at the Office of the Registrar: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201308/gord.html

Please see the listing for WM (Writing and Math Requirement) for this particular course at the following link: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201308/all/geograph.htm#

Office Location: TUR 3142

Office Hours:
Wednesday: 1:40 – 3:10 PM
Friday: 1:40 – 3:10 PM
*(Other times by appointment)

Contact Information:
Department of Geography: (352) 392-0494
Fax: (352) 392-8855

Mailing Address:
Department of Geography, University of Florida
3141 Turlington Hall, P.O. Box 117315
Gainesville, FL 32611-7315

Hours of Operation:
Monday through Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (860) 690-6192 (direct/voice mail)
Email: mmckay1@ufl.edu

Geographic Coordinates: 82.34312 West Longitude, 29.64990 North Latitude
For questions or to inquire about majoring in Geography, please contact the following professor:

Undergraduate Coordinator: Dr. Mossa, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Email: mossa@ufl.edu  
Telephone: (352) 294-7510  
Web site information: [http://geog.ufl.edu/programs/undergrad/](http://geog.ufl.edu/programs/undergrad/)

**University Catalog Description of Course:**

“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 Description:**

This course provides a geographical perspective of contemporary economic issues in the context of globalization. The objectives of the course are to discuss concepts related to the evolution and spatial distribution of economic activity, and to explore how the resultant emerging locational patterns of economic activity are affected by globalization. Discussions will focus on issues such as trade, technological change, and government policy from the perspectives of labor, the firm, the consumer, and the state.

**OBJECTIVE:** This course will provide students with the contextual information and awareness of the spatial distribution and spatial interaction of economic activities in a rapidly globalizing world economy and to aid students in placing this relationship in the context of broader social and political institutions and dynamics.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** At the completion of this course, students should be able to: 1).develop an understanding of concepts and issues related to the spatial interactions of the economy; 2) develop an understanding of how increasing globalization of our world today affects these interactions; and 3) develop the ability to critically analyze current issues related to economic geography.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

RECOMMENDED TEXT:


This particular text will provide students the opportunity make more sense out of Economic Geography by providing a background in Economics. This book is highly recommended if a student has not taken an undergraduate course in Economics. Nonetheless, this book is useful even if one is already an Economics major. It is available at retail establishments such as Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, etc.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS: The instructor will submit additional readings digitally or in hard copy as deemed necessary throughout the semester to reinforce the learning.

GRADING:

1) Class Assignments: 5%
2) Three Exercises: 30% (10% each)
3) Two Film Reviews 20% (10% each)
4) Research Paper/Project 25%
5) Midterm Exam: 10%
6) Final Exam: 10%

100% - TOTAL COURSE EVALUATION

This course fulfills the 6,000 word requirement (among several university courses that meet the standards of the University of Florida in this regard). As such, the instructor will devote time teaching you discipline specific academic writing skills including but not limited to the following: critical thinking and developing a sound argument, methods for developing a clear structure for your papers (three exercises), rules regarding citations and plagiarism, etc. It is important to stress that it is good practice to read your work (once you are ready to submit it to me) in hard copy format (as it is easier to pick up mistakes that way) and to read your work aloud (such as at home) before submitting it for evaluation.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

A) Short in-class writing tasks:

These assignments will take the form of brainstorming exercises, writing to learn exercises, etc., and are primarily designed to foster students’ critical thinking and writing skills. Students should expect to start some class periods with a brief writing exercise. Some of these assignments will be graded, while others may not be. Either way, these assignments are all geared to help you become better writers and certainly are important to complete. At the same time, the idea for such a writing exercise is to think critically and to get your ideas down on paper, and to not be concerned about being evaluated (hence why sometimes these exercises will not be graded, as I want you to focus on the task at hand).
THREE EXERCISES:

**Exercise 1**: Article Review (Written Analysis of 750 words)
**Exercise 2**: Location Analysis (Problem Solving and Written Analysis of 750 words)
**Exercise 3**: Commodity Chain Analysis (Written Analysis of 750 words)

TWO FILM REVIEWS:

Two films will be shown during the semester, as both relate to changing economic conditions that have spatial implications and thus, relate well to Economic Geography (even though people may have seen one or both documentaries in other courses or outside of an academic environment). Each film review will require a written summary and answers to a set of questions (with each film review being 750 words), and will be due one week after the conclusion of the showing of each film during class time.

RESEARCH PAPER/PROJECT:

Students will be writing an empirical, theoretical, or expository research paper on an instructor approved topic that relates to Economic Geography. The term papers are to be approximately 9 pages (2,500 words) of text (12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1” margins). The research project will be evaluated on the following criteria: (a) clarity in grammar and style; (b) the clarity and structure of the argument and presentation thereof; and (c) the effort put forth in researching the material, as indicated through the number and quality of sources. There is no minimum number of sources required, though it is important to include several SCHOLARLY sources, which entail peer-reviewed journal articles, monographs, and other texts that are academic by their nature. Use of Internet sites and periodicals should be kept to a minimum, and a paper with few scholarly sources will have points deducted accordingly. The research paper will consist of the following parts, which should be utilized as a checklist for organizational purposes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part 1:</th>
<th>Topic proposal, outline, and purpose statement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Part 2:</td>
<td>Complete draft of paper (2,500 word minimum)</td>
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<td>Part 3:</td>
<td>Final draft (incorporating instructor feedback/recommendations for improvement toward initial draft, and must also include a minimum of 2,500 words)</td>
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</table>

While there is a length requirement for your paper, remember that quality is more important than quantity. The “built in” revision process will assure that you can achieve a satisfactory result if you choose to participate. **Rewrites/revisions are an integral part of the Research Paper/Project and missed (or late) rewrites/revisions will result in deductions to the final paper grade as indicated.** Remember, rewrites are not just corrected copies with spelling and grammar errors fixed; they actually involve the careful examination of your purpose, argument, and its structure and the reorganizing of the text to make your argument stronger and clearer. You may want to add material as well in this process. You will only receive feedback from the instructor on drafts and final papers that are submitted by the respective due dates.
**MIDTERM EXAM:**

The midterm exam will include material from the beginning of the semester to the class immediately preceding the exam date.

**FINAL EXAM:**

The final exam will occur during the designated final examination date and time, and will only include information covered after the Midterm to the end of the semester.

**FINAL GRADES WILL BE ASSIGNED AS FOLLOWS:**

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 90 \text{ or above}; \\
A- &= 88-89.9; \\
B+ &= 86-87.9; \\
B &= 80-85.9; \\
B- &= 78-79.9; \\
C+ &= 76-77.9; \\
C &= 70-75.9; \\
C- &= 68-69.9; \\
D+ &= 66-67.9; \\
D &= 60-65.9; \\
D- &= 58-59.9; \\
E &= < 58
\end{align*}
\]

**NO CLASSES:** September 2: Labor Day; November 9: Homecoming; November 11: Veterans’ Day; November 27 & 29: Thanksgiving Recess; December 6: Reading Day

**GRADING POLICY:** This course will adhere to the University of Florida’s policies on grading, as found at the following Web link.

[https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

**MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY:** A penalty of 15 points will be assessed to a missed exam without a confirmed excuse (i.e., documented verification provided by a certified professional such as a physician, confirmation by Student Health Care Services or the Counseling and Wellness Center, etc.). Exams not made up will automatically be given a grade of F. **NOTE:** A missed final exam equals an F in the course.

**SIX CONFIRMED EXCUSES FOR MISSING AN EXAM:**

1) Illness: I will need to see a physician’s (i.e., doctor’s) note and receive emailed notification of your absence. This note does not need to violate your privacy, however, it does need to indicate that you were treated by a medical professional who can attest to your need to miss class during an examination or that would preclude you from taking such an exam when scheduled.

2) Wake/Funeral/Memorial Service Attendance: I will need proof of attendance with the date of the ceremony listed clearly in writing.

3) Mandatory courtroom appearance: This can be for a criminal or civil summons, or it may be for mere jury duty. However, I will need a copy of your official court summons with the date of attendance clearly listed.

4) UF Athletic or Performance participation: I will need appropriate documentation IN ADVANCE.

5) Military service assignments: I will need proper documentation and it is a courtesy to the instructor to provide this information in advance.
ATTENDANCE POLICY:

This is not a correspondence course and thus your physical presence in the classroom is required. You are expected to attend class regularly, and as such, I will take attendance every class session to get to know everyone’s name and to learn more about the students. Punctuality and regular attendance are essential components toward student success (given the amount of material discussed during class time), however, you are responsible for all the material covered in class, whether you are present or absent.

Students may miss two classes without penalty. Beginning with the third unexcused class absence, the final grade for the course will be reduced by 1 point per absence. Perfect attendance will result in having 3 points added to the final course average.

NOTE: Please see the following link for more information on attendance, as this course will adhere to the University of Florida’s regulations in this regard.

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you need course adaptations or accommodations due to a documented disability, if you have emergency medical information that you need to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

If students need classroom adaptations/accommodations, then they must begin the process by registering with the Dean of Students Office.

Additionally, please see the Disability Resource Center for arrangements in this regard (if you have not done so already) in 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall).

Contact information for this center can be found at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

OTHER KEY INFORMATION FOR SHORT-TERM/LONG-TERM SERVICES RELATED TO ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, OR PERSONAL ISSUES:

The University Counseling & Wellness Center: (352) 392-1575
(http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx)

The Student Health Care Center (352) 392-1161

The University Police Department can be contacted at (352) 392-1111 or dial 911 for emergencies.
The writing component for this course will consist of the following:

B) Short in-class writing assignments:

These assignments will take the form of brainstorming exercises or writing to learn exercises, and are primarily designed to foster students’ critical thinking and writing skills. Students should expect to start some class periods with a brief writing exercise. For these assignments, the objective is for you to think critically and to get your ideas down on paper, and to not be concerned about being evaluated specifically for content.

C) Three exercises:

These exercises are to be approximately 750 words each (12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1-inch margins). The three exercises are worth 30% (10% for each exercise) of your final grade for the course. The objective of these papers is to hone critical thinking skills through a written analysis of assigned materials. Papers are to be submitted at the beginning of class on the date that they are due, in hard copy. Late papers will have grades reduced by five points per day that they are late. For example, if a paper is submitted three days after it is due, and one would have otherwise earned a 100 percent score, the grade will be reduced to an 85 percent. Therefore, it is important to submit written assignments on a timely basis.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If I have indicated that you have problems with grammar and writing style, I will encourage you to take your drafts to the Writing Studio and work with the consultants there to assist in strengthening your papers. Anyone is eligible to utilize their services, which are FREE of charge, so take advantage of what they are able to assist you with in the process. Even students who earn A and B grades are welcome make an appointment at the Writing Studio. One-on-one assistance and consultation is available. I am also available to provide general assistance as requested as well.

Contact Information:

The Writing Studio (within the University Writing Program)
302 Tigert Hall
(352) 846-1138
http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/
IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT CITATIONS AND REFERENCES:

Using others’ words, ideas, images, graphics, illustrations, maps, diagrams or other intellectual property requires proper citations and documentation. One’s own words describing information gathered from elsewhere (in addition to direct quotations) requires proper citation and documentation to avoid plagiarism. You are responsible for knowing the rules of referencing sources for your writing. The following Web link will provide you with the citation style used in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers, which is a top-tiered, peer-reviewed scholarly journal published by the Association of American Geographers. **We will use this citation/documentation style for this course.** I recommend that you use the following guide as a reference to maintain consistency throughout the course with your proper citations/documentations that is in accordance with academic scholarship (for the three exercises):

http://www.aag.org/galleries/default-file/ANNALSSTYLESHEET.pdf

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will be expected to evaluate the quality of instruction in this course based upon 10 criteria. Evaluations can be completed online at this site:

https://evaluations.ufl.edu

Evaluations are typically able to be completed during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students shall be made aware of when the evaluations will be accessible online. The summary results of these evaluations will be available at the following site:

https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/

POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “(W)e, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.
OTHER COURSE POLICY ISSUES:

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

For most of you, this should be common sense, though recent classroom trends have necessitated including this information about classroom etiquette. University classrooms are professional environments and you are expected and required to act accordingly. Class attendance is more than a mere physical presence in the classroom – it means the following rules are expected and required: no reading of novels, magazines, newspapers, notebooks, or anything else during class. Playing of games, passing notes, having side conversations with neighbors, or using laptops are not permitted. ABSOLUTELY NO TEXT MESSAGING DURING CLASS TIME! You should set your cell phones to mute or vibrate and put them away for class (unless there is an extenuating circumstance that would require it, but please notify me accordingly IN ADVANCE as a courtesy). Lastly, it is okay to disagree with others about their opinions, but please show due respect accordingly. You are all in this together and my job is to best facilitate the learning environment equally amongst all students.

CLASS CANCELATION:

In the event that the university is closed due to inclement weather or for some other unforeseen circumstance, then that class meeting’s itinerary is moved to the next scheduled class session. However, it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date with any changes that might occur with adjustments to the class schedule and with respect to due dates.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR MODIFY THE CONTENT COVERED AND THE SCHEDULE FOR DUE DATES AT ANY TIME DURING THE SEMESTER.

I look forward to working with you all this semester. Good luck, learn geography, and have fun in this class too! Much of your education is what you make of it, so do your part to make the best of this experience while you earn credits toward your university degree. Have a great semester!
## SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES/TOPICS:</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</th>
<th>WRITING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</th>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 1: 8/21 &amp; 8/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/21: Introduction of instructor and meeting of students; discussion of syllabus, course policies and procedures, etc.</td>
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<td>8/23: Pre-assessment; Introduction to subfield</td>
<td>Introduction (p. 1-11) &amp; PART 1 Preface (p. 13-14)</td>
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<td>WEEK 2: 8/26, 8/28, &amp; 8/30</td>
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<td>8/26 &amp; 8/28: Location Theory I</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>8/30: Location Theory II</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>WEEK 3: 9/4 &amp; 9/6</td>
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<td>9/4 &amp; 9/6: Modeling Economic Geographies</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>WEEK 4: 9/9, 9/11, &amp; 9/13</td>
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<td>9/9 &amp; 9/11: Film #1</td>
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<td>Due 9/13: Exercise #1</td>
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<td>9/13: The Geographies of the Firm</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>WEEK 5: 9/16, 9/18, &amp; 9/20</td>
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<td>Due 9/20: Film #1 Review</td>
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<td>The Geographies of the Firm</td>
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<td>WEEK 6: 9/23, 9/25, &amp; 9/27</td>
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<td>Going Global</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>WEEK 7: 9/30, 10/2, &amp; 10/4</td>
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<td>9/30: Going Global</td>
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<td>10/2: Review for Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>10/4: MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<td>WEEK 8: 10/7, 10/9, &amp; 10/11</td>
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<td>10/7 and 10/9: Geographic Inequities</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Due 10/11: Exercise #2</td>
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<td>10/11: Local and Regional Economies</td>
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<td>WEEK 9: 10/14, 10/16, &amp; 10/18</td>
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<td>10/14: Local and Regional Economies</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>10/16 &amp; 10/18: Film #2</td>
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<td>WEEK 10: 10/21, 10/23, &amp; 10/25</td>
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<td>Due 10/25: Film #2 Review</td>
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<td>Networks, Places and Flows</td>
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<td>DATES/TOPICS:</td>
<td>READING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</td>
<td>WRITING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</td>
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<td>WEEK 11: 10/28, 10/30, &amp; 11/1</td>
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<td>Due 11/1: Exercise #3</td>
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<td>10/28 &amp; 10/30: Networks, Places and Flows</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>11/1: Consumption</td>
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<td>WEEK 12: 11/4, 11/6</td>
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<td>Due 11/6: Research Paper/Project Draft</td>
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<td>11/4 &amp; 11/6: Consumption</td>
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<td>11/13 &amp; 11/15: Environment/Economy</td>
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<td>Environment/Economy</td>
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<td>WEEK 14: 11/25</td>
<td>Concluding Discussion</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>WEEK 15: 12/2 &amp; 12/4</td>
<td>Concluding Discussion and Exam Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/6: READING DAY</td>
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<td>WEEK 16: Friday, 12/13/13: FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>(Group 13C: Time of Class Exams: 6, M, W, F): 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</td>
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</table>

IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR PROGRESS DURING THE SEMESTER, PLEASE SEE ME AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER TO ADDRESS CONCERNS. ADDITIONALLY, IF ENGLISH IS NOT YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE AND THIS MAY PRESENT A PROBLEM IN YOUR COMMUNICATING IN WRITING IN THIS COURSE, PLEASE SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH MOVING FORWARD. WELCOME TO “ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY”! I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING YOUR INSTRUCTOR!