



GEO 3502: Economic Geography
University of Florida - Department of Geography
Spring 2020
Credits: 3; Prereq: none
Class Number: 14797

Tuesday 11:45-12:35 PM, Anderson Hall 34
Thursday 11:45-1:40 PM, Fine Arts C 127

Updated: December 12, 2019

Instructor

Dr. Olivier J. Walther, Department of Geography, 425 Grinter Hall, +1 (352) 273-4739, owalther@ufl.edu. Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9-10:30 AM, or by appointment.

Overview

The world is becoming increasingly connected. Yet, the benefits of globalization have not been shared equally across the regions. What makes regions competitive? Why are some cities more innovative than others? How do borders affect human flows and ideas?

The aim of this course is to study the spatial causes and consequences of uneven development. The course provides a general introduction to economic geography, a science that examines how societies, firms and states make use of space through their economic activities.

The course first discusses the concepts developed in economic geography to understand uneven economic development across the world. It then examines how money, states, firms and workers reshape the global economic landscape. Finally, the course considers the territorial consequences of uneven development for local societies, firms and regions and discusses possible policies that can contribute to reduce territorial disparities.

At the end of the course, you will be able to reflect on the major drivers of territorial change observed across the world using a variety of concepts developed in economic geography. You will also be able to find relevant data pertaining to the evolution of cities, regions and countries, organize the data into tables, maps, or graphs, and apply your knowledge of the spatial economy to compare major trends across regions.

Schedule

Jan 7	Course introduction (McK&C 2019, chap 1)
Jan 9	Key concepts in economic geography (Thrift 2008)
Jan 14	Key concepts in economic geography (World Bank 2009: xix-xxiii, 1-7)
Jan 16	Regions and regional geography (Jones 2017)
Jan 21	Population (Rosling 2014)
Jan 23	Working with spatial data (Yau 2013)
Jan 28	Production, industrial districts and clusters (McK&C 2019, chap 3)
Jan 30	Mapping spatial data 1 (ArcGIS)
Feb 4	Finance and knowledge-intensive activities (McK&C 2019, chap 4)
Feb 6	Mapping spatial data 2 (ArcGIS)
Feb 11	Development (McK&C 2019, chap 7)
Feb 13	Spatial inequalities (Glaeser 2011: 69-91)
Feb 18	Labor (McK&C 2019 chap 6)
Feb 20	Guest lecture: Prof. Darla Monroe, Ohio State University (time to be confirmed)
Feb 25	State and governance (McK&C 2019, chap 7)
Feb 27	Q&A on mid-term paper – Mid-term paper due
Mar 10	Networks, value chains and space (McK&C 2019, chap 9)
Mar 12	Lab 1 on economic networks (OECD 2019a)
Mar 17	Transport, communication and the digital economy (McK&C 2019, chap 8)
Mar 19	Lab 2 on transport and logistics (Walther et al. 2019)
Mar 24	Cities, urban agglomeration, innovation (McK&C 2019, chap 10)
Mar 26	Lab 3 on cities (Shane 2019)
Mar 31	Regional integration and borders (World Bank 2009: 96-120)
Apr 2	Lab 4 on borders (OECD 2019b)
Apr 7	Online assignment (no class)
Apr 9	Online assignment (no class)
Apr 14	Tourism (Hall and Page 2014: 1-41)
Apr 16	Lab 5 on tourism (Davis 2017, chap 9)
Apr 21	Course overview, questions and answers - Final paper due

Final grade

Attendance and participation	10%
Mid-term paper	40%
Final paper	50%

The major assessment components of this course include:

- Regular classroom attendance and participation: students are expected to be at every class meeting throughout the entire class session, and must not be reading other materials or use their computers, tablets, and cell phones. Participation entails responding to questions directed by the instructor and participating in peer-initiated discussions as well.
- Mid-term assignment (max 2000 words). This descriptive paper will use statistical data from various sources to study the recent economic evolution of a region of your choice. For more information, see “How to write your mid-term paper” on [Canvas](#). The final paper is due February 27 on Canvas at 5PM.
- Final paper (max 4000 words). This analytical paper will apply some of the key concepts developed in economic geography to study the evolution of a region, using the existing literature and quantitative data. For more information, see “How to write your final paper” on [Canvas](#). The final paper is due April 21 on Canvas at 5PM.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following numerical scale:

A: 93-100, A-: 90-92, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82, C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72, D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62, E: <60, E1: stopped attending, I: incomplete. For more information, visit UF’s [Grading Policies](#).

This course will fulfill the University of Florida’s Writing and Math Requirement (formerly Gordon Rule). This means that students in this course are required to write at least 6,000 words in assignments throughout the semester. For more information on the Writing and Math Requirement, please examine this [link](#) at the Office of the Registrar.

Literature

Textbook

The textbook for the course is *Introduction to Economic Geography. Globalization, Uneven Development and Place* by Danny MacKinnon & Andrew Cumbers (third edition, 2019). The book is available online on UF’s Library [website](#). Two hard copies are reserved for this class.

Supplemental readings

Davis JE. 2017. *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*. New York, W.W. Norton.
Glaeser E. 2011. *Triumph of the City. How our Greatest Invention Makes us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier*. New York, Penguin.
Hall MC, Page SJ. 2014. *The Geography of Tourism and Recreation*. London, Routledge.

- Jones M. 2016. Regional Geography, in Richardson D et al. (eds) *International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment and Technology*, New York, Wiley, 1-4.
- OECD 2019a. *Women and Trade Networks in West Africa*. Paris, OECD, 75-102.
- OECD 2019b. Regional integration in border cities. Paris, OECD *West African Papers* 20.
- Rosling H. 2014. Don't Panic, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAcK2knC08E>
- Shane S. 2019. Prime Mover: How Amazon Wove Itself Into the Life of an American City. *The New York Times*, Nov. 30.
- Thrift N. 2008. Space: the fundamental stuff of human geography, in Clifford N, Holloway S, Rice SP, Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. New York, Sage: 85-96.
- Walther O, Dambo L, Koné M, van Eupen M. 2019. Mapping travel time to assess accessibility in West Africa: The role of borders, checkpoints and road conditions. *Journal of Transport Geography* 82.
- World Bank. 2009. *World Development Report. Reshaping Economic Geography*. Washington, DC, The World Bank.
- Yau N. 2013. *Data Points. Visualization That Means Something*. New York, Wiley.

Software

Students must bring their own laptops to class. We will mainly work with Excel and ArcGIS. Both are available on [UF Apps](#). The students are responsible for installing the software on their own computer or accessing UF Apps. The instructor cannot be held responsible for any damage or malfunction resulting from the installation or use of the programs.

Ethics

Please review the University's policies regarding [student conduct and conflict resolution](#), available through the Dean of Students Office [website](#). Any violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a failing grade for the course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs.

Other information

A course description is available here: <https://one.ufl.edu/soc/>

Books and articles can be accessed using UF's Libraries: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/>. To find a scientific journal, please go to: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/journals.html>

The course includes lectures, class-room discussions, tutorial exercises, and case studies.

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>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be

presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. 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://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>