



GEO 3502: ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
University of Florida - Department of Geography
Syllabus - Fall 2023 (online)

Course Information

Class Number/Section: 13112 / EGDL; 13113 / EGUF (UF Online)

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Modality: Fully online (asynchronous)

First Week of Class: August 23-25

Instructor Information

Name: Aaron R. King

Contact: Canvas Inbox (preferred) or aaronrking@ufl.edu

Office Location: Turlington Hall, 1215

Office Hours:

- Mon: 10am – 1pm; Tue: 9am – 12pm; Fri: 10am – 12pm (noon)
- Or by appointment

Appointment Links:

- [Microsoft Teams or in-person](#)
- [Zoom \(“Zoom Conferences” menu option and select “Appointments” tab on Canvas site\)](#)

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.

How This Course Will Be Taught

This is a fully online course offered in an asynchronous format. All course activities, assignments, learning content, supplemental readings, and communication will be available on and conducted through Canvas, our course management system. You can access the course at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>.

Each module contains: (1) a module overview, (2) learning materials, and (3) assessments.

- Module overview includes an introduction to major themes and learning objectives.
- Learning materials include readings, videos, and PowerPoint slides.
- Assessments will consist of exercises and writing submissions uploaded to Canvas.

Course Information and Requirements

This course fulfills the Writing (formerly Gordon Rule-6000) and Gen Ed: Social and Behavioral requirements. This means that students in this course are required to write at least 6,000 words in assignments throughout the semester. Work in this course contributes to [UF's 24,000 original written word requirement](#). "Original words" DOES NOT include references and title pages.

The 6,000 word requirement is spread across four writing assignments in this course. Please note that excess words written in one assignment will not be counted toward the word requirements of another assignment.

Grading and Assessments

Module exercises	10 points
First assignment	10 points
Mid-term paper	30 points
Second assignment	10 points
Final paper	40 points
Total	100 points

The major assessment components of this course include:

- Module exercises: There will be 10 module exercises throughout the term. These are meant to enhance your ability to gather, understand, and analyze spatial and economic data. Each exercise will include notes, PowerPoints, and/or videos to guide you. The exercises will equip you with all the tools you'll need to write an effective research paper for this course, as well as impart useful and marketable training for other endeavors.
- First assignment: 500-word description of the data and methodology used to describe the changing geography of a subnational region. This assignment is due **October 3 at 11:59PM** on Canvas.
- Mid-term paper (1500 words): This descriptive paper uses 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 mid-term paper is due **October 15 at 11:59PM** on Canvas.

- Second assignment: 1000-word literature review of a geographical concept used to explain the changing geography of your region. This assignment is due **November 1 at 11:59PM** on Canvas.
- Final paper (3000 words): This analytical paper applies some of the key concepts developed in economic geography to study the evolution of a region. For more information, see “How to write your final paper” on [Canvas](#). The final paper is due **December 6 at 11:59PM** on Canvas.
- Students who wish to improve their grades can complete an optional assignment worth 10 additional points and due **December 6 at 11:59 PM**. Not completing this assignment will not hurt your grade.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following numerical scale. For more information, visit UF’s [Grading Policies](#).

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

Week	Topic + Readings	Assignments + Due Dates
Week 1	Course introduction	
Week 2	<u>Key concepts in economic geography</u> McK&C 2019, Ch. 1-2 (pp. 3-13, 26-34)	Exercise 1 (due Fri 9/1)
Week 3	<u>Regions and regional geography</u> World Bank 2009 (pp. xix-xxiii) <u>Working with spatial data</u> Yau 2013, Ch. 4 (pp. 143-161)	Exercise 2 (due Sun 9/10)
Week 4	<u>Population</u> Rosling 2014, 00:00-11:30, 19:15-26:20 [video] Günther & Harttgen 2016 (skim)	Exercise 3 (due Sun 9/17)
Week 5	<u>Production, industrial districts, and clusters</u> McK&C 2019, Ch.3 (pp. 58-85)	1. Research question + case study (due Wed 9/20) 2. Exercise 4 (due Sun 9/24)
Week 6	<u>Labor and and knowledge-intensive activities</u> McK&C 2019, Ch. 6 (pp. 174-178)	1. Exercise 5 (due Sun 10/1) 2. Assignment 1 (due 10/3)
Week 7	<u>Spatial inequalities</u> Glaeser 2011 (pp. 69-91) <u>Development</u> McK&C 2019, Ch. 7 (pp. 197-203)	Exercise 6 (due Mon 10/10)
Week 8	<u>Individual work on Mid-Term</u> Resources available in Canvas	Mid-term (due Sun 10/15)
Week 9	<u>Finance</u> McK&C 2019, Ch. 4 (pp. 102-113) <u>Transport, communication, the digital economy</u> McK&C 2019, Ch. 8 (pp. 227-234)	
Week 10	<u>Transport policies</u> Walther et al. 2019a	Assignment 2 (due Wed 11/1)
Week 11	<u>Networks, value chains, and space</u> Walther et al. 2019b <u>Economic networks</u> McK&C 2019, Ch. 9 (pp. 254-265)	Exercise 7 (due Sun 11/5)
Week 12	<u>Cities, urban agglomeration, innovation</u> McK&C 2019, Ch. 10 (pp. 295-303) Shane 2019	Exercise 8 (due Sun 11/12)
Week 13	<u>Regional integration and borders</u> World Bank 2009 (pp. 96-102) OECD 2019	Exercise 9 (due Sun 11/19)
Week 14	<u>Tourism</u> Hall and Page 2014 (pp. 1-11) Davis 2017, Ch. 9 (pp. 253-260)	Exercise 10 (due Thus 11/30)
Week 15	<u>State and governance</u> McK&C 2019, Ch. 5 (pp. 130-142)	
Week 16	<u>Course overview and final paper</u> Resources available in Canvas <i>Optional assignment will be due by Wed 12/6</i>	Final paper (due Wed 12/6)

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). Two hard copies are reserved for this class at the library for those with access to campus facilities. Students experiencing difficulty acquiring a copy of the textbook should reach out to the instructor as soon as possible.

Supplemental readings (provided in Canvas)

- 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.
- OECD 2019. Regional integration in border cities. Paris, OECD *West African Papers* 20.
- Rosling H. 2014. Don't Panic, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAck2knC08E>, 00:00-11:30
Fertility, 19:15-26:20 Mortality
- 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. 2019a. Mapping travel time to assess accessibility in West Africa: The role of borders, checkpoints and road conditions. *Journal of Transport Geography* 82.
- Walther O, Tenikue M, Trémolières M. 2019b. Economic performance, gender and social networks in West African food systems. *World Development* 124: 1-14.
- 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, chapter 4.

Coastal Cities Priced Out Low-Wage Workers. Now College Graduates Are Leaving, Too.

Citation style and plagiarism

When quoting a book or an article, make sure that the source is cited properly and that your paper is not plagiarized, wholly or in part. Use Google Scholar or the UF Library website to export your references in MLA, APS, Chicago, or any referencing style you want.

General statements must be presented as follows: *Cities tend to attract creative workers (Scott 2002)*. Excerpts must be presented in quotation marks to show that a particular portion of your paper is from a different source. Include the author's name, the date, and page number, as follows: *According to Glaeser (2011: 65), "national policy should strive to enrich and empower everybody"*.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs such as ChatGPT cannot be used in this class.

Software

We will work with three programs (Excel, ArcMap, and ORA) 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.

Other information

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.

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 [Journals](#) or use [Google Scholar](#).

The course is delivered in person. It includes lectures, 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](#).

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) 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/>

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. For additional information, please visit the [University website](#).

This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As the semester proceeds, those plans may need to change to enhance the class and student learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.