

GEO 3502: Economic Geography (EGDL & EGUF; 13508, 13509; 3 Credits; 100% Online)

University of Florida - Department of Geography

Instructor: Akhil R Kshirsagar (Ph.D. Candidate)

Contact: Use Canvas Inbox (**preferred**) or email me at akhil.kshirsagar@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Mondays (11 am to 12:30 pm) & Thursdays (9 am to 10:30 am) or by appointment

Office Hours Zoom Link:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96016397279?pwd=ZEtJMDVXZWtqcEFrdnA2RHQxVDdLdz09>

Zoom Passcode: 828904

Teaching Assistant (TA): Matthew McKay (Ph.D. Candidate)

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Course Description:

What makes New York, Shanghai, and London major centers of **world finance**? What, if any, is the relation between a **container ship** stuck in a narrow canal halfway across the globe and the hike in the cost of your **Amazon order**? Why does a **McDonald's menu** in India, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. **differ** so significantly in their **offerings** and the **taste** of their products? Why do cities **grow** and **flourish** the way they do? What's making **Austin, TX** being dubbed the next '**Silicon Valley**'? Does **tubing** in the Floridian Springs help **conserve** or **degrade** them?

All economies comprise people operating at a particular **scale**. The world today is more **connected** than ever, and yet, the footprints of **globalization** are distributed **disproportionately** across the regions of the globe, leading to **uneven development**. What makes some **regions** more competitive or some **cities** more innovative compared to others? Do **borders** have an impact on the flow of humans, goods, and ideas?

What links economics to geography? Economic Geography, a marriage of both that focuses on drawing out the human aspect of labor rather than mostly focusing on

mathematical theories and equations, is the **science** that examines the use of **space** for economic activities by **societies**. It helps us to study how **communities function**, how **cities operate**, and how the **global system communicates** across nodes.

This course provides a general **introduction to economic geography** and includes the **causes** and **consequences** of **unequal development** and a comprehensive geographical survey of major economic activities such as **agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing**, and **commerce**. Emphasis will be on the study of the characteristics of distribution and the regional patterns of these activities.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Explain the genesis, development, and evolution of economic geography as a field
- Describe the major forms of economic activity and their processes
- Critically analyze economic issues from a geographic standpoint
- Apply economic geography theory and concepts to real-world situations

Recommended Course Materials:

- Textbook: Trevor Barnes & Brett Christophers. 2018. ***Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction***. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. The textbook is available online via the '**Course Reserves**' tab on Canvas.
- Additional materials including videos and readings will be available in the course modules on Canvas.

General Requirements:

This course fulfills the **Writing (Gordon Rule-6000)** AND **Gen Ed: Social and Behavioral** requirements at the University of Florida (UF).

This course meets the writing requirement of **6,000** of the university's 24,000 original written word requirements (Gordon Rule-6000).

'Original Words' refers to your own words and phrases and **DOES NOT** include any words that you directly quote from a source. Hence, please remember that the **final word count of any assignment will include (all your written words) MINUS (any directly quoted words + References section)**.

The requirements to be completed for this course include **6 current-event activities, 10 short reflections, and an individual final research project.**

NOTE: The instructor/TA reserve the right not to accept late work, except in documented emergencies in which the instructor has been contacted in advance or as soon afterward as possible. **Requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing, with full explanations and documentation attached.** The format of any make-up will be at the

instructor's discretion. Also, please remember that **excess words written in one assignment WILL NOT be counted towards the word requirements of another assignment** - e.g., if you have written 400 words to complete a Reflection 1 (word-count requirement is 300 words), the additional 100 words **WILL NOT** be used as the word-count towards any other reflection, current event discussion, or the final project assignment. However, all additional original written words (beyond an assignment's requirement) will also be used in calculating the total number of original words written by you for the course.

Assessment and Grades:

Course grades have two components. To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of '**C**' or higher AND **Satisfactory** completion of the writing component of the course i.e., 6,000 original written words.

All 10 Reflection Essays, Current-Event Discussions and the Final Project will be processed through the similarity checker *Turnitin* -- **submissions with a similarity score of 15% and above will be considered plagiarized and will NOT be graded**. Students are expected to keep track of their *Turnitin* Similarity scores prior to submitting assignments.

The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. To complete the *Writing* requirement, you MUST have written **AT LEAST 6,000 original words** in the form of 6 current-events discussion posts (2,100 words), 10 reflection essays (3,000 words), and a **final project** (900 words).

All written assignments will be evaluated, and you will be provided feedback with respect to grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization so it is important that you refer to the Rubrics for each assignment while developing your responses. You should avoid all **informal/slang/colloquial terms** (e.g., fix, stuff, cool, crazy, etc.) in your writing to avoid losing points.

As per [UF's Policy](#), *“Written assignments that count toward the University of Florida Writing Requirement should contain extended analysis and develop original, sophisticated ideas, not merely present hastily written or cursory thoughts. UF Writing Requirement assignments should include such elements as well-crafted paragraphs, a thesis or hypothesis, a persuasive organizational structure (e.g., introduction, body, conclusion; introduction, methods, results, discussion), well-supported claims, and appropriate and effective stylistic elements.”*

Due dates for all assignments will be posted on Canvas and it is your responsibility to keep track of them, although I will be making regular announcements as well. You should always refer to the online calendar on our class's Canvas page as that will contain the most up-to-date information. **All submissions must be submitted to Canvas (you should not email or send them to instructors/TA via Canvas messaging)** for grading.

Plagiarism is a serious issue so please ensure that the Similarity Score of your work is below this acceptable level before submitting every assignment. You will always have access to these reports to see your score and report, so you have an opportunity to revise if needed, prior to submission. Any assignment that is considered to be plagiarized WILL NOT be graded, either for points or words.

Additionally, as this course has a **6,000** written-word requirement, please ensure that you add the original word count of **EVERY** assignment at the **top-right corner of the first page** to avoid losing points.

Also, please remember that only **original words count towards this 6,000-word requirement - anything that is directly quoted (i.e., all words within quotation marks - "**don't go outside**", he said), and your References/Bibliography section are **NOT** included in your word count.

Throughout this course, wherever you need to add either in-text citations or references in your assignment, you are required to use the **APA format (6th or 7th edition)**, to avoid losing any points. Please refer to the '**Orientation Module**', including the university's Writing Studio (<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>) for resources on writing and using the APA format. The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio on their website or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

Assignment Descriptions (Total Points Possible = 600):

• Short Reflection Essays – 60% (3,000 words)

These will be graded by **Matthew so students must contact her for any questions/concerns related to the requirements of the assignment or their grade for all of these.

You are required to complete a reflection activity for every module. To do so, you will need to **respond to any one of the several prompts provided**. You need to write your essay on only 1 of the 2 prompts that are provided for that topic (e.g., for **module 5 on Globalization**, you need to write your essay on only 1 of the 2 prompts that are provided).

That makes a total of **10 essays** (1 per module), each of which must be of **AT LEAST 300 words** (@3,000 words total).

These essay assignments are your chance to also use both, provided and external sources, and dive into the aspects of each module that interest you most as we consume, digest, and critique the course's material. For some of them, you will be required to use credible external sources (materials not provided in the modules) for compiling all these reflection essays.

• **Current-Events Discussions – 20% (2,100 words)**

****These will be graded by Akhil so students must contact him for any questions/concerns related to the requirements of the assignment or their grade for all of these.**

You will need to complete **6** such discussion posts (**20 points each**).

In modules 5-10 of the class, we will have current event discussion posts to explore how our class topics manifest in the real world right now. These discussion assignments will require you to both, share a summary of your own current event news stories and reflect on those posted by 2 of your classmates.

As part of the discussion posts, you need to do the following - post a discussion/summary of your chosen news article (DO NOT post your discussion as a word/pdf file, but simply type it out), AND provide a succinct, but accurate response to any 2 posts/articles submitted by your colleagues that are different than your own article.

Remember, that the ‘Due Dates’ for the Current-Events refer only to the article discussion/summary – you will need to keep track of the deadlines for posting your 2 responses (should be within 24 hours of the due dates for the article discussion/summary).

Each post must be a minimum of a total **350 words**, comprised of a **discussion/summary** (will be checked for plagiarism) **of your chosen article (275 words)** and **your response to 2 posts/articles from any two of your colleagues** that have posted articles different than yours (**75 words combined**) (@ 2,100 words total).

For all discussion posts, you should submit your original post (**at least 275 words**) by the due date shown in Canvas (e.g., 11:59 pm on 5/13/2022) and must have your replies to any 2 posts (which are different than yours) by your colleagues (**at least 75 words combined**) posted **within 24 hours** (by 11:59 pm on 5/14/2022) after the Canvas due date (for the discussion) to earn credit for them. Your 2 responses to your colleagues' posts can vary in length but they must add up to 75 words or more.

Remember, your current-event news articles must be from any time on or after 06/01/2022 to receive a grade. Stories published outside of these dates will NOT be graded, so it is student's responsibility to ensure this requirement is met.

• **Final Project – 10% (900 words)**

****This assignment will be graded by Akhil so students must contact him for any questions/concerns related to the requirements of the assignment or their grade for all parts of their final project.**

A final project will be due before the end of the semester. This project will require you to critically analyze (and trace) the process of globalization of any specific **clothing** item that is **sold by a retailer in Gainesville, FL**.

There are **2 components** to this assignment:

- i. **Topic Selection:** As the first step in your final project, you will need to submit your topic (i.e., details of clothing item along with retailer and its location in Gainesville, FL) for approval (**15 points**) by **11:59 pm** on the due date. Prior to submitting a product, it is your responsibility to make sure that all the required information on it to complete the final project is available. This assignment has **NO** word count.

E.g.: 9318 Trail Men's Shoes, Stone Flood (product) sold at Champion Sports (retailer) located in Oaks Mall (location).

- ii. **Product Analysis:** Next, once your topic has been approved by me, you will complete a project (**45 points**) tracing and analyzing the globalization (refer to Rubric for exact questions to be analyzed) of your approved item of clothing. This needs to be **at least 900 words, excluding your references**.

**Please note that you do not have to be physically present in Gainesville to complete this project so do not contact us seeking clarification on it.

• **Module Quizzes – 10%**

There will be 2 **closed-book** Quizzes of 30-minutes each that cover all the module topics. These objective quizzes are designed to test your understanding of critical concepts and topics in these modules and will contain a combination of **True/False, fill-in-the-blank, Match-the-column,** and **multiple-choice** questions.

Quiz 1 will cover modules 1-5 i.e., Introduction, History, Theories, Methodologies, and Globalization.

Quiz 2 will cover modules 6-10 i.e., Uneven Development, Money & Finance, Cities & Urbanization, Nature & the Environment, and Industrial & Technological Change.

There is only a **single-attempt** allowed per quiz and the quizzes will be **proctored via the Honorlock software**. Make sure to account for the time Honorlock adds to the exam when planning when to take the exam.

• **Syllabus Quiz**

There will be a syllabus quiz in week 1. Your score on it will **NOT** count towards your final grade, but **you must pass** it with a **100% score** to **access the course materials**.

Professionalism & Participation:

As this is a **100% online** and **asynchronous** course, students are expected to be responsible for their own learning and for ensuring that coursework is completed in a timely manner. Reading course announcements and watching the module videos, in addition to studying the chapters in the textbook will assist you in meeting these expectations.

Positive compartment and participation include completing all assignments, asking (or answering) productive questions on the class questions discussion board, being timely with all aspects of the course, informing the instructor of any problems or conflicts you may be having, and being courteous and respectful to all.

Expectations & Class Demeanor:

Please refer to me as **Akhil** and our TA as **Matthew** in all your communications with us. Students are expected to be responsible for their own learning and for ensuring that coursework is completed in a timely manner as all deadlines will be strictly implemented. Keeping track of all course announcements will assist you in meeting these expectations. Students are expected to watch all videos and read all required materials, in addition to checking feedback they receive on their submissions.

Specific assignments for this course include **6 current-event activities, 10 reflection essays, 2 module quizzes, and an individual final project**. All work must be submitted to the assignment's page on Canvas for it to be graded. Any assignments received via Email/Canvas message will **NOT be graded**. You are expected to review the Rubrics for each assignment AND your Turnitin Similarity Score prior to submitting to avoid losing points and/or plagiarizing.

You can expect the instructor/TA to respond to Canvas messages/emails within 1-2 business days (Monday-Friday). The instructor/TA may respond sooner, including on the weekends, but it is not guaranteed.

I am available to meet with you during office hours or by appointment only. The zoom link (and the passcode) for weekly office hours is provided on the course homepage and syllabus to be used for attending all office hours or an appointment.

Grading Scale:

All work must be submitted to the assignment's page on Canvas. All deadlines and due dates are in **Eastern Standard Time (EST)**. Grades will be on a 100-point scale using the following grading scale:

Numerical grade (<i>n</i>)	Letter Grade	Grade Point Average (GPA)
570 - 600	A	4.0
540 - 569	A-	3.67
522 - 539	B+	3.33
492 - 521	B	3.0
462 - 491	B-	2.67
432 - 461	C+	2.33
402 - 431	C	2.0
372 - 401	C-	1.67
342 - 371	D+	1.33
312 - 341	D	1.0
300 - 311	D-	0.67

More information on UF's grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Assignment	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Short Reflection Essays (10)	360	60%
Current Event Discussions (6)	120	20%
Quizzes (2)	60	10%
Final Project	60	10%
Total	600	100%

Late Work & Make-Up Policy:

All due dates and times will be strictly implemented and must be met to avoid losing points, but I recognize that certain circumstances may prevent you from meeting a deadline, and in this case, please contact me in advance or as soon afterward as possible. Requests for exceptions must be submitted, sufficiently in advance, in writing via **Canvas email**, with full explanations and documentation attached. All deadlines (**11:59 pm**) and due dates are in **Eastern Standard Time (EST)** and will be strictly adhered to.

As per course policy, **10% of the assignment grade will be deducted from an assignment for every day the assignment is late** unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor due to an unforeseen circumstance or life event that will not allow the student to turn in the assignment on time. **Unless you have documented evidence or have received prior extension from either one of us, please do not contact us asking for the**

same. The 10% deduction will be **applied at midnight for each 24-hour increment** after the time the assignment is due.

Here is an example of the late policy applied to a 20-point homework assignment. If the assignment is due at 11:59 pm on Monday, 10% of the homework assignment grade will be automatically deducted by Canvas as soon as the time is midnight (12 am) on Tuesday. Therefore, the maximum credit the student can receive for the assignment is 18 points. If the student fails to submit the assignment within the subsequent 24-hour period, the maximum amount the student can receive for the assignment will be 16 points. This process continues until reaching 0, after which the student cannot earn credit for the assignment.

Class Units & Schedule of Topics:

Course materials will be divided into 10 modules across 2 parts – a critical analysis of economic geography and next, its applications and implications.

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 & Plagiarism:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “***We, 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***”.

You should read the University's Guide to academic honesty, which is available online at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-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 or TA in this class.

All submissions with a similarity score of 15% and above will be considered plagiarized and will not be graded. 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 with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click [here](#) to get started with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letters with the instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Online Course Evaluations:

Students are encouraged to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). Students will be notified via in-course announcements when the evaluation period opens and students can complete evaluations either through the email you receive from GatorEvals, the **GatorEvals** tab in their Canvas course menu, or by using [this](#) link. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> ([Links to an external site.](#)).

Counseling and Wellness Center:

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center is <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> or 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Statement on Intellectual Property Rights:

Course materials prepared by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, irrespective of whether that individual is enrolled in the course.

Course Attendance, Make-Ups, etc.:

As this is a **100% online** course, all course materials will be made available on Canvas, and students are expected to utilize all the materials provided and keep up to date via regular **announcements** that will be made.

Due to the short duration of the course, there will be **no make-ups allowed** for the assignments, unless you have a **documented reason** and **prior approval** from either me or Matthew. I understand that life happens, and if you find yourself going off-track/lagging, it is your responsibility to contact me so we can make any arrangements that might be required.