

GEO2500: Global and Regional Economies

Fall 2025 | 3 credits

NOTE: This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see UF's "[Academic Policies and Resources](#)" web page.

I. General Information

Meeting days and times:

Class location: Asynchronous online, via Canvas

Instructor(s):

Name: Alan Wiig

Office Building/Number: Turlington Hall 3124

Phone: 352-294-0784

Email: alanwiig@ufl.edu

Office Hours: 9:30am to 10:30am, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sign up for office hours through Canvas.

Course Description

This course explores contemporary perspectives, themes, and research in economic and political geography focusing on events and issues associated with regional and global economic and demographic change. Regional variations and disparities in growth and development are analyzed, and policy implications discussed.

Prerequisites: None

General Education Designation: Social and Behavioral Sciences (S); Satisfies 6000 Words of Writing Requirement

Social Science courses must afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues. **Social and Behavioral Sciences (S)** is a sub-designation of Social Sciences at the University of Florida. These courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

All General Education area objectives can be found [here](#).

Course Materials

- Available for free on Canvas: Knox, P., J. Agnew, and L. McCarthy. 2014. *The Geography of the World Economy*. 6th edition. New York: Routledge.

Materials will be available through the following means:

All additional reading materials will be made available for free via Canvas.

Materials Fee: N/A

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

This course explores the evolution of economic globalization around the world: its origins, its transformations, and its current trajectories.

Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Describe the processes and systems which have led to globalization.
- Define the impact of historical events and culture on economic development patterns.
- Critically explain current issues associated with the world economy.
- Recognize how globalization affects our everyday lives.
- Summarize concepts, theories, and narratives concerning globalization and develop strategies to live and work in a globalized world.

III. Graded Work

The course grade is distributed across several components, each contributing to the overall assessment. There are quizzes scheduled weekly, with the total score from these quizzes making up 15% of the final grade. Additionally, students will participate in weekly discussions, each worth 25 points, collectively accounting for 30% of the grade. Five writing essays, each 1,000 words in length and valued at 25 points, will also be required, contributing another 30% to the total grade. Finally, a single final paper, worth 30 points, will constitute the remaining 25% of the overall course grade. This distribution ensures that all elements—quizzes, discussions, essays, and the final paper—are integral to the student's success in the course.

Graded Components

Quiz (15%): 10 Quizzes (one per module). Points of each test may vary based on quiz questions

Discussion (30%): 10 Discussion submissions (one per module). 25 points each.

Written Essays (30%): Five essays throughout the term. 25 points each.

Final Paper (25%): 30 points total.

TOTAL: 100%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-92.5
A-	92.4-89.5
B+	89.4-86.5
B	86.4-82.5
B-	82.4-79.5
C+	79.4-76.5
C	76.4-72.5
C-	72.4-69.5
D+	69.4-66.5
D	66.4-62.5
D-	62.4-59.5
E	59.4-0

Note: A minimum grade of C is required to earn General Education credit.

Assignment policy: Discussion and writing assignments are due by Friday at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. This schedule allows you to complete scheduled assignments throughout the entire week before beginning the material for the following week. All assignments should be submitted through Canvas. The following module opens at 12:00 a.m. on Saturday, immediately after the deadline has passed.

Grading and Make-up Policy: All assignments and due dates can be found on the Canvas e-Learning page. As life happens, there is an automatic grace period of 24 hours for late submissions without the need to request an extension. In any case, it is highly recommended that you submit your assignments on time whenever possible since they build upon one another, and it can be difficult to catch up if you fall behind. Late assignments will lose 5% for each day after the 24- hour grace period. 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>

This course fulfills the University of Florida's Writing 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. The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students both maintain fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. Course grades have two components. To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course. For more information on the Writing and Math Requirement, please examine this [link](#) at the Office of the Registrar.

The instructor is committed to supporting students' academic growth by providing thorough evaluations and constructive feedback on all written assignments.

Each assignment will have specific word counts and submission deadlines, which must be adhered to for successful completion of the course. The specific details will be provided along with the assignments.

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. You can use whatever referencing style you are familiar with, but ensure you are consistent with the style throughout the writing assignment. If you have questions about citation, 1) remember that overcitation is better than undercitation, and 2) reach out to me via email/Canvas before the assignment is due and I will assist you!

Generative AI use is not permitted in this class: In this course, the use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT or Adobe Firefly is not permitted to support the completion of any assigned work. This includes, but is not limited to, using generative AI tools to ideate, pre-plan, edit, translate, or otherwise create original material you claim to be solely your creation. Use of a generative AI tool to complete assigned work in whole or in part may be referred under the Code of Student Conduct academic dishonesty provisions for further action by the Dean of Students Office.

IV. Calendar

The course is organized into 11 Modules. These modules have been designed to build upon each other, ensuring a cohesive and progressive learning experience. Each module has been assigned a specific date. In the final weeks of the course, there will be a final project that will allow you to showcase your mastery of the course material. You are expected to follow the course outline and participate in the weekly modules. Each assignment within a module must be completed. The course outline may change, if so I will post announcements on Canvas to keep you informed about any adjustments to the syllabus, assignment due dates, or any other pertinent aspects of the course.

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
August 21, 2025	Welcome to the course	Read the course check in	Introducing yourself statement
August 21, 2025	Module 1: Introduction to Global and Regional Economies	Chapter 1	Discussion 1 and Quiz 1
August 30, 2025	Module 2: Global Patterns and Trends	Chapter 2	Discussion 2, Quiz 2 and Module 2 Essay - Measures of Economic Development
September 6, 2025	Module 3: Geographical Dynamics of the World Economy	Chapter 3	Module 3 Discussion and Quiz 3
September 13, 2025	Module 4: Evolution of the Core Regions	Chapter 5	Module 4 Discussion, Quiz 4, Reflection

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
September 20, 2025	Module 5: Globalization of Economic Activities	Chapter 6	Module 5 Discussion and Quiz 5
September 27, 2025	Module 6: Spatial Reorganization of the Core Economies	Chapter 7	Module 6 Discussion, Quiz 6, and Module 6 Essay: Cumulative Causation and Globalization
October 4, 2025	Module 7: Transformation of the Periphery	Chapter 8	Module 7 Discussion and Quiz 7
October 11, 2025	Module 8: Agriculture	Chapter 9	Module 8 Discussion, Quiz 8, and Module 8 Short Essay
October 18, 2025	Module 9: Industrialization and China's Rise	Chapter 10	Module 9 Discussion and Quiz 9
October 25, 2025	Module 10: Current Issues in Globalization	Readings to be determined	Module 10 Discussion and Final Paper Outline
November 1, 2025	Module 11: Uncertain Futures for Globalization	Readings to be determined	Module 11 Discussion and Final Paper Draft
November 8 to 29, 2025	No assigned modules	Work on your final paper	Final paper due December 5, 2025.

V. Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Jason Blackburn (jblackburn@ufl.edu, 352-294-7501). Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1261).