

Geography 2400: Economic and Social Geography

<p>Instructor: Dr. Madhumita Dutta Derby Hall 1178 Office hours: Wednesday 9.10-10.05 am via zoom link: https://osu.zoom.us/j/93711655155?pwd=TE92OGx0cUdUVHpRbzBjWjFZcXBaUT09 Meeting ID: 937 1165 5155 Password: 129379 If you wish to set up other meeting time, you can Email: dutta.71@osu.edu Phone: 614-292-0584</p>	<p>Teaching Assistant: Brookes Hammock Derby Hall 1155 Office hours: By appointment hammock.5@buckeyemail.osu.edu</p>
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The Economic iceberg and the submerged no-economy

Source: Gibson-Graham (2006)/Drawing by Ken Byrne.

Introduction to the course

What is the economy? The purpose of this class will be to think about how we as **social actors** engage in **economic activity**. We are often taught to think of “The Economy” as something outside ourselves and separate from social life, but economic relationships are fundamentally social relationships. We will also consider the **spaces and places** of economic activity, and examine our role in producing them.

The course will introduce key concepts from human geography used to study society and the economy, as well as summarizing major economic processes (production and consumption) and key economic trends (deindustrialization and globalization). Then, we will use familiar places, workplaces, our neighborhoods and cities to look at how spatial processes, consumptions and social relations shape our everyday lives and economy.

Course learning outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Compare how different concepts of space (location, territory, place, scale) inform a geographic perspective
- Apply space as a tool to analyze inequality and analyze how space produces inequality
- Describe uneven patterns of social and economic relations today
- Analyze how patterns of social and economic unevenness have changed over time and space
- Explain how various sites and spaces of economic activities are interconnected
- Recognize and attribute the social actors involved in economic processes
- Analyze the uneven power relations amongst social actors

General Education (GE) requirements

This course can be used to satisfy two areas of the GE:

Social Science Goals: Human, Natural, and Economic Resources

Goals: Social science courses develop students' understanding of the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of the use and distribution of human, natural, and economic resources and decisions and policies concerning such resources.

o Rationale: This course will satisfy this objective through comparing economic and geographic theories on distribution of resources. We focus on how the distribution of various resources are all tied to the distribution of wealth.

2. Students understand the political, economic, and social trade-offs reflected in individual decisions and societal policymaking and enforcement and their similarities and differences across contexts.

o Rationale: This course will satisfy this objective by addressing how uneven development is linked to who has the power to enforce decisions. We also address the specifically spatial dimensions of political, economic, and social trade-offs.

3. Students comprehend and assess the physical, social, economic, and political sustainability of individual and societal decisions with respect to resource use.

o Rationale: This course will satisfy this objective by addressing how labor and environmental conditions in capitalist production are unsustainable for the health of both people and the planet. We also cover this by showing how contradictions in capitalism create crisis and how crisis creates opportunities for capitalism.

Diversity Goals: Global Studies

Goals: Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

1. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.

o Rationale: This course will satisfy this objective by looking at the significance of immigration to the global economy. We also look at specific economic conditions of Mexico and Jamaica.

2. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

o Rationale: This course will satisfy this objective by addressing how consumer culture shapes our identity and values and how the changing nature of work may provide new opportunities to think about the multiple forms of enacting global citizenship.

How the course works

Course instruction

This course is 100% online. There are no required sessions when you must be logged in to Carmen at a scheduled time. However, it is expected that you complete the required readings, participate in weekly discussion posts, complete online weekly assignments and **take the exams and submit final research project as per schedule**. Students are also expected to take a proactive role by seeking assistance from the TA or the instructor when problems arise.

Instructors will post course material (lectures/readings/discussion posts/assignments) for each week by 8:00 am Monday morning. Students will complete the activities for each week by Sunday at 11:59 pm (have one week to complete). Students are expected to keep pace with weekly course deadlines but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

All students are assigned to a discussion group of about 10-11 individuals. Students will see Carmen discussion posts of others in their group.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to Ohio State policy, students should expect around 3 hours per week of direct instruction (online instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) and 6 hours of independent work (reading and assignment preparation, for example).

Communication: Both instructors are available to assist you. For issues of clarification or greater explanation, the TA should be your first point of contact. Whenever possible, meeting us during our office hours via zoom or appointment via email is preferred. Use of the Carmen discussion board is also encouraged.

Students who are unable to complete the assigned work due to serious illness or other extreme circumstances must submit documentation to me within one week of the absence in order to turn in any work missed.

Course materials (no purchases required!)

Required – selected sections will be available electronically through Carmen Gregory D, Johnston R, Pratt G, et al. (eds) (2009) *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. 5th ed. UK: Blackwell Publishing.

All other required articles, book sections, or podcasts are directly embedded in Carmen (see course schedule)

Films - All Films are available through either DocuSeek, Secured Media Library, or Kanopy (all streaming platforms are OSU supported and have been vetted for accessibility standards, including adequate captioning, please contact the instructor if you need alternative assignments)

Assignment information

There are weekly discussion posts, weekly written assignment, two mid-term exams and one final group research project (due at the end of the course). This course is organized in 4 thematic modules: Our Global Economy; How we work; What we buy; Where we live. Each module will include a set of lectures, required readings, a film or two, discussion post and short answer assignments.

Lectures, readings, and films: Unless explicitly noted, all lectures, readings, and films are required. These materials cover key concepts, provide background information, and explore each module's concepts through examples. You will need to view this material in order to complete the graded assignments.

Short answer assignment: At the end of each week students will complete a short, written assignment. The specific questions will vary by week. You can use your notes to complete

these assignments. However, your submission must be written in your own words. Excellent work should include a clear argument that demonstrates knowledge of individual content areas and draws connections among content areas. Responses should be well-written, consider the appropriate audience/IMPLIED reader, and include references when relevant (full bibliography is not necessary). Unless specified otherwise, the expected response length for the short answer assessments is 250-300 words. A detailed rubric will be provided.

Discussion post: Each week students will post a discussion post. Specific prompt/instructions will be posted each week. You will be able to see the posts of others in your discussion group only after you post your response. **All students are assigned to a discussion group of about 10-11 individuals.** Unless specified otherwise, the expected response length for discussion post is 150-200 words. Discussion posts will count towards class participation.

Midterms: The exams will comprise a set of questions that will require reflective/analytical writing. Specific instructions will be provided before the exam.

Research project - Commodity Chain Analysis: The final for this class is a commodity chain analysis assignment that will be a group project. Students will work in their assigned groups (same as the discussion groups) to analyze the geographical structures involved in the transformation of a commodity from its origins to the 'end' of its life. There are three key questions: What are the linkages between people, places, and processes? Why those linkages and not others? What are the stakes or implications of such linkages (who are the winners and losers)? At the end of the semester you will upload your group research project in the form of a) a written submission (essay format) and b) slides with voice over narration (visual and audio component). Excellent work effectively organizes and clearly communicates ideas, provides well-researched evidence and documentation of various sources, and demonstrates potential to apply methods for commodity chain analysis beyond the current project. A detailed rubric will be provided.

Late assignments

Late submissions will be accepted up to a week past the due date, with penalties. One day late will incur a 10% penalty. Two days late will incur 20% penalty. Three days will incur a 30% penalty. Four days late will incur a 40% penalty. Five to seven days late will only receive 50% credit of the grade you would have received if it was submitted on time. There are no penalties if you contact an instructor ahead of time for deadline adjustments. Please refer to Carmen for due dates.

Course evaluation

Midterm 1	15%
Midterm 2	15%
Discussion post (counted towards participation)	20%

Assignments	20%
Final Research	30%
Total	100%

Class policies

Our primary joint responsibility in this class is to create a productive learning community. Good humor and support of one another are welcomed and encouraged. You should respect my right to teach and the right of your fellow students to learn. You are expected to conduct yourself with courtesy at all times and to treat everyone with respect. **Threatening or intimidating speech in any form/medium will not be tolerated.**

Attendance and participation requirements

Your attendance is based mainly on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

- Logging in: AT LEAST TWICE PER WEEK Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen each week, including weeks with holidays or weeks with minimal online course activity. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with an instructor as soon as possible

OSU Grading Scale

Percentage	Letter Grade	Qualitative Description
93-100	A	Achievement that is <u>outstanding</u> relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
90-92.9	A-	
87-89.9	B+	Achievement that is <u>significantly above</u> the level necessary to meet course requirements.
83-86.9	B	
80-82.9	B-	
77-79.9	C+	Achievement that is <u>in keeping</u> with the course requirements in every respect.
73-76.9	C	
70-72.9	C-	
67-69.9	D+	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
60-66.9	D	
0-59.9	E	Work that was either completed but not worthy of credit, or incomplete.

Ohio State's academic integrity policy

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>

Copyright disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Accessibility of course technology This course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.

Your mental health As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273- TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Statement on title IX Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

Schedule with topics, readings and assignments

(This schedule is subject to change, changes will be posted on Carmen. All the readings, lectures, videos, radiopodcasts are available on course landing page on carmen.)

Dates	Module	Readings/videos
	I. Our Global Economy	
Wk 1: 11-15 Jan	Introduction to the syllabus	No readings. Go through the syllabus carefully. If you have any questions, post via discussion post (student resource on Carmen) OR Visit office hour Wednesday via zoom link (9.10-10.05) https://osu.zoom.us/j/93711655155?pwd=TE92OGx0cUdUVHprbzBjWjFZcXBaUT09 Meeting ID: 937 1165 5155 Password: 129379 Watch: Introductory video by Prof Dutta (Instructor)/ Brookes Hammock (TA)
WK 2: 18-22 Jan	What is Economic and Social Geography?	Readings: 1. Dictionary of Human Geography: Read 4 concepts - space, scale, place, territory "Space" (Links to an external site.) "Scale" (Links to an external site.) "Territory" (Links to an external site.) "Place" (Links to an external site.) You should be able to click on hyperlinked selections above, enter your osu.# and password, and then directly access the readings. If you have problems accessing the readings described above. Follow the directions below. Go to library.osu.edu (Links to an external site.) Search: Dictionary of Human Geography Click: "see more library catalog results" Select: under "material types" select "ebooks" Click: "Dictionary of Human Geography (electronic resource)," it should be the top selection, once in a new page, click "connect to resource Credo reference" Once routed to the e-version, search for keywords (i.e. space, scale, territory, place)

<p>Week 3: 25-29 Jan</p>	<p>The Global Economy</p>	<p>Reading: Coe et al (2020) The Economy: What Does it Mean? Economics is too important to leave it to the experts https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/apr/30/economics-experts-economists Watch: Life & Debt (Secured Media Library, 60 min, 2001)</p>
<p>Week 4: 1-5 feb</p>	<p>Capitalism and Neoliberalism</p>	<p>Reading: What Exactly is neoliberalism? https://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/booked-3-what-exactly-is-neoliberalism-wendy-brown-undoing-the-demos Watch: Talk by Prof Ha-Joon Chang: 23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whVf5tuVbus</p>
<p>Week 5: 8-12 Feb</p>	<p>Global trade and Labor</p>	<p>Reading: Sri Lankan Migration to the Gulf: Female Breadwinners - Domestic Workers http://www.mei.edu/content/sri-lankan-migration-gulf-female-breadwinners-domestic-workers 95% Of Domestic Workers Are Women. In California, They're Demanding Better Pay https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/domestic-workers-overtime-law-ca_us_56ddd53fe4b0ffe6f8ea2bce Watch: On Canada's Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) and Childcare: A Short Animation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqqV3ZGT9A</p>
<p>Week 6: 15-19 Feb</p>	<p>Politics of global production</p> <p>Workshop: How to do Global commodity Chain Research</p>	<p>Reading: The politics of global production: Apple, Foxconn and China's new working class https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ntwe.12008 China is turning Ethiopia into a giant fashion factory https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-03-02/china-is-turning-ethiopia-into-a-giant-fast-fashion-factory Watch: Maquilapolis: A City of Factories - Activism for Low-Wage Workers in Mexico (Kanopy, 69 min, 2006)</p>
<p>II. How We Work</p>		
<p>Week 7</p>	<p>Vulnerability and Precarity</p>	<p>Reading:</p>

<p>22-26 Feb</p>	<p>Workshop: How to do Global commodity Chain Research</p>	<p>Walmart Workers Cost Taxpayers \$6.2 Billion In Public Assistance https://www.forbes.com/sites/clareoconnor/2014/04/15/report-walmart-workers-cost-taxpayers-6-2-billion-in-public-assistance/#425671ac720b What happened when Walmart left https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jul/09/what-happened-when-walmart-left</p> <p>Uber’s new loan program could trap drivers in cycles of crushing debt https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/05/uber-loan-program-debt?CMP=share_btn_tw</p> <p>Opioid Deaths Rise When Auto Plants Close, Study Shows https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/30/business/economy/30opioids-auto-plants.html?te=1&nl=the-upshot&emc=edit_up_20200102?campaign_id=29&instance_id=14896&segment_id=19993&user_id=f8d93eaf74bf49938d46307487967192&regi_id=8376250620200102</p>
<p>Week 8 1-5 Mar</p>	<p>Gendered work</p> <p>MID TERM 1</p>	<p>Reading:</p> <p>The pink-collar job boom https://money.usnews.com/money/careers/articles/2012/09/10/the-pink-collar-job-boom</p> <p>Gender pay gap at Ohio State: male employees earn nearly \$8,000 more than females https://www.thelantern.com/2017/12/gender-pay-gap-at-ohio-state-male-employees-earn-nearly-8000-more-than-females/</p> <p>The grooming gap: what “looking the part” costs women http://inthesetimes.com/article/22197/grooming-gap-women-economics-wage-gender-sexism-make-up-styling-dress-code</p>
<p>Week 9 8-12 Mar</p>	<p>Gig Economy</p>	<p>Sometimes you don’t feel human https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/oct/17/sometimes-you-dont-feel-human-how-the-gig-economy-chews-up-and-spits-out-millennials</p> <p>The gig economy screws over everyone but the bosses https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/597745/the-gig-economy-screws-over-everyone-but-the-bosses-across-canada You Are Literally Working for Silicon Valley and Don’t Know It https://gen.medium.com/amp/p/f04144390914</p>

		<p>Watch: Uberland (Kanopy, 53 min, 2019)</p> <p>Listen (radio podcast): Is Uber Moral? The Ethical Crisis of the Gig Economy with Veena Dubal https://www.radicalai.org/e22-veena-dubal</p>
Week 10 15-19 Mar	Global Commodity Chain	<p>India Garment Report (Prof Dutta's Research)</p> <p>Watch: <i>T-Shirt Travels</i></p>
	3. What We Buy	
Week 11 22-26 Mar	Consumption as a social act	<p>Reading: Luxury on the installment Plan https://thebaffler.com/latest/luxury-on-the-installment-plan-del-valle?fbclid=IwAR1HwgmBtBtEuxGhjN11kR4FNvrHiCH1087IxWwlpOMm_OnizLzEB0Dt8b4</p> <p>For every person in Hong Kong, there are 48 pounds of electronic waste per year https://qz.com/895504/asia-has-a-growing-e-waste-problem-and-hong-kong-is-its-hidden-villain/</p> <p>Watch: Story of Stuff https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorqroigqM</p>
Week 12 29Mar- 2Apr	Distancing production and consumption	<p>Reading: Santa's real workshop https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/architecture-design-blog/2014/dec/19/santas-real-workshop-the-town-in-china-that-makes-the-worlds-christmas-decorations</p> <p>Fashion Nova's Secret: Underpaid workers in Los Angeles Factories https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/16/business/fashion-nova-underpaid-workers.html</p> <p>Watch: Black Gold: A Look at Coffee Production Around the World (78 min, 2006)</p>
Week 13 5-9Apr	Tourism as consumption	<p>Reading: Dubai finesses ease of luxury shopping for Chinese https://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/03/world/middleeast/dubai-finesses-ease-of-luxury-shopping-for-chinese.html</p> <p>Airbnb and the so-called sharing economy is hollowing out our cities</p>

	MID TERM 2	https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/31/airbnb-sharing-economy-cities-barcelona-inequality-locals
	Where We Live	
Week 14 12-16 Apr	Urban Spaces and Global Cities	<p>Reading: The 3 pictures that explain everything about Smart Cities https://www.citylab.com/design/2019/06/smart-city-photos-technology-marketing-branding-jibberjabber/592123/</p> <p>Big cities are the future of global consumption https://www.citylab.com/life/2016/04/big-cities-are-the-future-of-global-consumption/478128/</p> <p>Watch: Left Behind America: Ohio Citizens Fight for Economic Revitalization (Kanopy, 53 min, 2018)</p>
Week 15 19-23 Apr	Race and Cities	<p>Reading: Against Black Homeownership http://bostonreview.net/race/keeanga-yamahtta-taylor-against-black-homeownership</p> <p>Standing Rock, Flint and the color of water http://www.aaihs.org/standing-rock-flint-and-the-color-of-water/</p> <p>Watch: Here's to Flint: https://www.aclumich.org/en/press-releases/aclu-michigan-releases-documentary-heres-flint-flint-water-crisis</p> <p>Listen (podcast) The Dig conversation with Keeanga Yamahtta Taylor 'Race for Profit': https://www.thedigradio.com/podcast/race-for-profit-with-keeanga-yamahtta-taylor/</p>
Week 16 26-30 Apr	FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT	Submission by 30 April, 11:59 PM