

Geography 5401: Economy, Space and Society

Instructor: Darla Munroe

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Introduction to the course

How we think about the economy shapes our social engagement through space and time, and influences how we live in our communities and with each other. We will critically examine multiple ways of thinking about economies: what the economy is, how and why it is changing, and how through it we become economic actors: workers and consumers. We will explore these concepts further through the case studies of childhood (child workers, child consumers), and the sex economy (commercialization of sex and sex work).

Much of how “the economy” is portrayed in the media is as technical and quantitative representations. Our goal will be to think about how economic processes, practices and outcomes are constituted by people, often connected across great distances. Therefore, any discussion of the economy necessitates ethical deliberation and debate.

Class goals: To provide human geographic tools and concepts for understanding the economy, to develop greater insight into ongoing processes of global economic change, practicing and enhancing written and oral communication about geographic scholarship, and further developing critical thinking skills.



Course evaluation

3 Workshop papers		30% total
<i>There's Research on That!</i> Blog post		50% total
Research an example	10%	
Personal statement	5%	
Annotated Bibliography	10%	
Diagram and presentation	5%	
Final blog post	20%	
In-class writing	~2% each	20% total
		100%

Readings

All readings are to be found on Carmen. Readings come from several different human geography texts (available on reserve).

Disability Services: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Course outcomes: By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Synthesize and apply principles from economic geography to current events and research
- Critically discuss a range of contemporary economic issues, highlighting political and social complexity of these issues and the way they are discussed in the general public
- Critically evaluate economic outcomes, conflicts and problems, with attention to winners and losers; and
- Generate clear and thoughtful social science commentary

Format: This course will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Learning over the course of the semester will cumulate in a final report and presentation.

Class policies

Course material: Students are responsible for all material presented in class and all assigned readings. It is assumed that students have completed the readings before class.

Integration of course themes will be assessed in the final blog post, and many of these themes will be discussed only in class. Students are expected to attend all classes, complete the required reading, participate in class discussion and activities, and **turn in all assignments on the scheduled dates**. Students are also expected to take a proactive role by seeking assistance from the instructor when problems arise. Lecture outlines will be posted on Carmen. In the event that you miss class, seek detailed notes from a classmate.

Classroom etiquette: Please come to class on time. Please minimize eating, drinking or talking so as not to disturb the other students. **Students may use laptops for note-taking only.** Anyone surfing the web or using cell phones to make/receive calls or text messages during class will be asked to leave.

Attendance: Because this is an active classroom where discussion and in-class activities are emphasized, attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of **four unexcused absences**. Missing five or more class sessions will result in a failing grade for the semester. An absence is excused when there is sufficient written documentation; i.e., a doctor's note, or a tow-truck receipt.

Missing work due to illness or other circumstances: Students who miss class 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. If documentation is not received within this period excusing the absence, the student will receive a 0 (zero) grade for any work missed.

Use of classroom technology: It is the student's responsibility to ensure access to our learning technology website, Carmen, and all of its tools. This includes seeking technical support from OSU staff (ocio.osu.edu) when encountering any problems. Students must themselves confirm that discussion postings are successfully posted or files are uploaded to the Dropbox in order to receive credit.

Gradebook: It is also the student’s responsibility to look at the **Carmen gradebook** regularly. I make every effort to keep your grade up to date and students should be well aware of their class standing at all times throughout the semester.

In-class writings: There are no make-ups for missing a writing assignment except with documented excuse.

Workshop papers: There are three “workshop papers” listed on the schedule (October 6th, October 29th and October 19th). Students will complete and upload to Carmen a preliminary one-page draft of an essay on those dates, and then after class submit a final 2-page version. More details are provided on Carmen.

There’s Research on That! Over the course of the semester, students will write their own blog post using human geography scholarship to analyze and understand a current event or problem (from the last 10 years) of their choosing. The writing of this blog post is broken into several stages, and includes a short class presentation at the end of the semester.

Movie Nights: Together with my beginning class (Geog 2400: Economic and Social Geography), we will be watching full-length feature films on three Thursdays during the semester. You are responsible for this content. If you cannot attend, you must watch these movies on your own time.

Th	24-Sep	Movie Night: <i>The Full Monty</i>	Stillman Hall 100, 7-9 pm
Th	29-Oct	Movie Night: <i>Who is Dayani Cristal?</i>	Stillman Hall 100, 7-9 pm
Th	19-Nov	Movie Night: <i>Stripped</i>	Hagerty Hall 180, 7-9 pm

Grading Scale

Percentage	Letter Grade	Qualitative Description
93-100	A	Demonstrated excellence in comprehensive and ability to articulate an informed perspective through critical thinking and analysis. Includes reference to additional material, abstract concepts, or shows cumulative learning.
90-92.9	A-	
87-89.9	B+	Clear understanding of material and time spent engaging with subject matter and task. Or, some confusion, but demonstrated attempt at understanding, abstraction, and engaging with challenging topics.
83-86.9	B	
80-82.9	B-	
77-79.9	C+	Sufficient completion of assigned work, but with little or no attention to detail, effort to excel, or investment in outcome.
73-76.9	C	
70-72.9	C-	
67-69.9	D+	Insufficient completion of assigned work due to lack of attention to detail, lack of following instructions, lack of effort, lack of comprehension.
60-66.9	D	
0-59.9	E	Obvious lack of effort or ability to follow directions. Incomplete or absent assignments.

Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct in any form will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. Students are referred to the definitions of academic misconduct found here: http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf. Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's

work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. All cases of suspected misconduct, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Source	Due
1	Tue	25-Aug	Introduction			
Our Global Economy						
	Th	27-Aug	Social dimensions of globalization	Commodity chain	Coe et al.	
2	Tue	1-Sep	Commodity chain approach	Uneven development	Coe et al.	
	Th	3-Sep	Global economic change			
3	Tue	8-Sep	Migration	Flows of people	Hudson	
	Th	10-Sep	Vulnerability in a global economy			
4	Tue	15-Sep	Neoliberalism and uneven development	The third world and neoliberal globalization	Sheppard et al.	
How We Work						
	Th	17-Sep	Contigent labor	The transnational corporation	Coe et al.	
5	Tue	22-Sep	New economy jobs			
	Th	24-Sep	Pink collar jobs	Fabri-cating fashion	Dicken	
	Th	24-Sep	Movie night: The Full Monty			
6	Tue	29-Sep	Labor in a global economy	Labour Power	Coe et al.	#TROT Example + 2 academic papers
	Th	1-Oct	Human trafficking and prison labor			
7	Tue	6-Oct	Workshop: social dimensions of work			One pager, Paper 1
What We Buy						
	Th	8-Oct	Social dimensions of consumption	Consumption	Coe et al.	Paper 1: A job I've had
8	Tue	13-Oct	Class and consumption			
	Th	15-Oct	AU Break, no class			
9	Tue	20-Oct	Consumption cities	Spaces of consumption, meaning and identities	Hudson	#TROT What do you know?
	Th	22-Oct	Consumption countrysides			
10	Tue	27-Oct	<i>What would Jesus buy?</i>			
	Th	29-Oct	Workshop: identity and consumption			One pager, Paper 2
	Th	29-Oct	Movie night: Who is Dayani Cristal?			
Children and the Economy						
11	Tue	3-Nov	Social construction of childhood	Stuck in Place	Katz	Paper 2: What I buy
	Th	5-Nov	Global Child			

12	Tue	10-Nov	Gender roles	Gendered economic geography	Coe et al.	
	Th	12-Nov	Poverty and childhood			#TROT Annotated Bibliography
13	Tue	17-Nov	New economy and education	"These are the best college majors"		
	Th	19-Nov	Workshop: social reproduction			One pager, Paper 3
	Th	19-Nov	Movie night: Stripped			
The Sex Economy						
14	Tue	24-Nov	Introduction to the Body	Sexing the economy, theorizing bodies	Tickell et al.	Paper 3: The story of my success
	Th	26-Nov	Thanksgiving			
15	Tue	1-Dec	Sex work	Global Sex Chs 2 and 7	Altman	
	Th	3-Dec	Presentations			#TROT Diagram and presentation
16	Tue	8-Dec	Presentations			
FINAL		11-Dec	FINAL blog post, due 5 pm			#TROT final blog post