

Geography 5401: Economy, Space and Society

Instructor: Darla Munroe
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TA: Brookes Hammock
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Mondays 1:30-3:30 pm

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 by examining the governance of a 'global economy,' how economic processes are structured through social systems like race and gender, and by scrutinizing varied forms of capitalism we see internationally.

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

Exams		40% total
Midterm exam	20%	
Final exam	20%	
Commodity chain analysis		20% total
Commodity proposal	5%	
Online presentations	15%	
In-class assignments	2%	10% total
Leading class discussion	15% each	30% total
		100%

Readings

Textbook: Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction, 2nd Edition. Coe et al, Wiley

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.

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. There are two, non-cumulative exams on key course concepts. Learning over the course of the semester will cumulate in a presentation. Students will be required to lead discussion on the readings at least twice during the semester.

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 will not be tolerated. Other disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, holding conversations with classmates, texting or web surfing, making unnecessary comments, leaving and coming back into the classroom (except in emergencies), or coming in late or leaving early on frequent occasions. If you violate these standards of courtesy and respect, you may be dismissed from class.

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 commodity chain assignment, 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 take exams 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.

Attendance: Because this is an active classroom where discussion and in-class activities are emphasized, attendance is required. We will regularly have graded in-class activities. Students with particular constraints, e.g., family obligations, should see me to work out a plan that will work for all concerned.

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 correctly in order to receive credit. Students **MUST** read Carmen email regularly.

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 discussion and exams: There are no make-ups for missing assigned days to lead discussion or taking the exams on their scheduled days without a documented excuse.

Leading discussion: Students will be assigned into groups, and each group will lead class discussion at least twice, beginning in Week 2. Part of leading discussion is to generate exam questions.

Exams: There is an in-class, midterm exam on Tuesday, October 9th. The scheduled final exam is Friday, December 7th, at 4 pm. The final is not cumulative (it will cover chapters after the midterm only).

Commodity chain assignment: Each student will pick one commodity to analyze. They must describe the geography of the commodity chain, how value is added along the chain, assess relevant social and environmental impacts (winners and losers) at multiple stages of production, and major issues of governance. Details are to be found on Carmen.

Academic Misconduct: 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 at <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
1		21-Aug Tue	Introduction to the class		
		23-Aug Thurs			
2		28-Aug Tue	What is the economy?	Ch 2	
		30-Aug Thurs		Group 1	
3		4-Sep Tue	Gender	Ch 13	
		6-Sep Thurs		Group 2	
4		11-Sep Tue	<i>Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</i>		
		13-Sep Thurs			
5		18-Sep Tue	Ethnicity	Ch 14	
		20-Sep Thurs		Group 3	
6		25-Sep Tue	Capitalism	Ch 3	
		27-Sep Thurs		Group 4	
7		2-Oct Tue	State	Ch 4	
		4-Oct Thurs		Group 5	
8		9-Oct Tue	Midterm		
		11-Oct Thurs	Autumn break, no class		
9		16-Oct Tue	Commodity chains	Ch 8	
		18-Oct Thurs		Group 1	
10		23-Oct Tue	Transnational corporations	Ch 10	
		28-Oct Thurs		Group 2	
11		30-Oct Tue	Labor	Ch 6	Commodity chain proposal
		1-Nov Thurs		Group 3	
12		6-Nov Tue	<i>Jason Reece guest lecture</i>		
		8-Nov Thurs			
13		13-Nov Tue	Commodity chains presentations		Upload to Carmen Complete Carmen peer reviews
		15-Nov Thurs			
14		20-Nov Tue	Consumption	Ch 15	
		22-Nov Thurs	Thanksgiving, no class	Group 4	
15		27-Nov Tue	Retail	Ch 11	
		29-Nov Thurs		Group 5	
16		4-Dec Tue	Wrap-up		
		7-Dec Fri	Final exam, 4:00 - 5:45 pm		

