

GEOG 2400 – Economic and Social Geography

Monday/Wednesday 3:55-5:15pm McPherson Lab 1046

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Office hours: T 11:30am -12:30pm; W 1-2pm
(or by appointment)

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Course description: This course covers the interlinkages of the economy and society at local, national, and global scales. The first half of the course provides an overview of key concepts from human geography that are used to study society and the economy and describes major economic trends. The second half of the course focuses more specifically on place, highlighting issues in urban and rural economic development.

Required materials: None. All required materials will be posted on the course Carmen site as PDFs or web links. Every Thursday, your reading assignments for the following week will be posted on Carmen.

Statement on 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; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Attendance policy: Attendance is not mandatory; however, roughly 30% of your final grade will come from brief in-class writings and other activities, and these *cannot* be made up or turned in late without either a) prior authorization from the instructor or b) official documentation of the reason(s) for your absence.

Grading scale:

Percentage	Letter grade	Description
93-100	A	Indicates a thorough understanding of the material at hand and reflects superior effort.
90-92.9	A-	
87-89.9	B+	Indicates a good, if not quite complete, understanding of the material at hand and reflects good effort.
83-86.9	B	
80-82.9	B-	
77-79.9	C+	Indicates an adequate understanding of the material at hand and reflects adequate effort.
73-76.9	C	
70-72.9	C-	

67-69.9 60-66.9	D+ D	Indicates a sub-par understanding of the material at hand and/or minimal effort, but is still deserving of credit.
0-59.9	E	Indicates a clear misunderstanding of the material at hand. This also includes work that reflects inadequate effort or is incomplete.

Course evaluation: Your grade in the course will be determined by your performance on the following assignments/examinations.

In-class writings/activities	30%
Critical reflections	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Total	100%

- In-class writings/activities will occur roughly once a week and will not be announced ahead of time.
- You will submit four critical reflections over the course of the semester. Each of these will be about two pages in length (double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12 pt. font), and they will all be submitted through Carmen. More details on the specific topics for each assignment will be provided later on.
- The midterm exam will be given on March 7th and will consist of both multiple-choice and short answer questions.
- The final exam will be given from 4-6 pm on April 30th and will be in the same format as the midterm exam. It will cover ONLY material from the second half of the class.

Late assignments: Your critical reflections are due at the beginning of class on their respective due dates. For each day an assignment is late, a penalty of 20% will be applied. Assignments that are more than one week late will not be graded.

Academic misconduct: Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct will NOT be tolerated. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be reported—*without exception*—to the university’s Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). COAM’s website also lists some useful definitions of academic misconduct, which can be found under “Defining Academic Misconduct” at the following link: <http://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct>. If you are not sure whether something is acceptable, *please* ask me or your teaching assistant—it is much easier to answer a question beforehand than it is to have to fill out a report after the fact!!

General Education requirements: GEOG 2400 fulfills two GE requirements.

- I. Social Science, “(3) 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.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the study of the use and distribution of human, natural, and economic resources and decisions and policies concerning such resources.
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.
3. Students comprehend and assess the physical, social, economic, and political sustainability of individual and societal decisions with respect to resource use.

II. Diversity, “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.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

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

Other course policies:

- Please use electronic devices judiciously. Taking notes on a computer or tablet rather than with pen and paper is fine, but texting, playing on phones, and other distracting behavior is not. It is probably impossible to keep everyone off of email/Facebook/shopping online/etc. for the duration of each class, but if inappropriate use of devices becomes problematic over the course of the semester, I reserve the right to ban the use of all devices (without documentation of academic need). If you are expecting an important phone call or text and it cannot wait until after class, please let me know ahead of time.
- Pets and other animals (besides certified service animals) are not permitted in class. Your classmates may have severe allergies or may be afraid of certain animals, and your instructor and TA accept no responsibility for any injuries or other harm caused to you or to other students by your animal.
- This class is intended to serve as a forum where ideas can be discussed without fear or bias. You are certainly allowed to disagree with what I say (although you might still have to know it for tests/assignments) or with what your classmates say, but by enrolling in this class, you signify your agreement to treat me and your classmates with respect and courtesy at all times. We criticize *ideas*, not *people*. Threats, personal insults, and other forms of harassment WILL NOT be tolerated and may result in your dismissal from class.

Schedule (subject to change):

Week	Date	Day	Theme	Topic	Assignment	
1	1/8	M		Introduction to the course		
	1/10	W	The global economy	Supply chains and production networks		
2	1/15	M		NO CLASS – MLK Day		
	1/17	W		Spatial division of labor		
3	1/22	M		Comparative/competitive advantage		
	1/24	W		Protectionism and trade policy	Critical reflection 1 due	
4	1/29	M		Work: Past, present, and future(?)	Changes in the structure of employment	
	1/31	W	Gendered work			
5	2/5	M	Precarious labor/McJobs			
	2/7	W	The future of work?			
6	2/12	M	Automation and the gig economy		Critical reflection 2 due	
	2/14	W	Consumption		Brands and identity	
7	2/19	M		Consumption as a social act		
	2/21	W		Distancing of production and consumption		
8	2/26	M		Ethical consumption		
	2/28	W				
9	3/5	M		REVIEW DAY	Critical reflection 3 due	
	3/7	W		MIDTERM EXAM		
10	3/12	M		NO CLASS – Spring Break		
	3/14	W				
11	3/19	M	Location, location, location: Place matters!	Suburbanization: History and issues		
	3/21	W		Gentrification		
12	3/26	M		Megacities and non-Western urban development		
	3/28	W		Cities and creativity		
13	4/2	M		NO CLASS – Instructor and TA are out of town		
	4/4	W		Rural distress		
14	4/9	M		Urban-rural interconnections		
	4/11	W				
15	4/16	M				
	4/18	W				
Last day of class	4/23	M		REVIEW DAY	Critical reflection 4 due	
Final exam	4/30	M		FINAL EXAM: 4-6 pm		