

Geography 2400: Economic and Social Geography

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Introduction to the course

What is the economy? Where are the boundaries between economic practice or economic processes, and social relationships? 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.

Roughly the first half of the class will be spent introducing 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 a familiar, but contested, social category (childhood) to look at the impacts of economic change. Finally, we look at how economic factors shape sexual identities and sexual practices.



Course evaluation

3 Exams		60%	
		total	
Midterm 1, Oct 6 th	24%		
Midterm 2, Nov 19 th	24%		
Final, Dec 11 th	12%		
In-class writing	~2% each	20%	
		total	
Weekly Carmen entries	~2% each	20%	
		total	
		100%	

Readings

All readings are to be found on Carmen. Required readings come from newspaper articles, blogs and other periodicals. NOTE: critical assessment of these materials will be conducted in class. Readings are of varying quality and perspective.

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/>.

General Education (GE) requirements

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

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.

Class policies

Michael Scott: What was the most inspiring thing I ever said to you?

Dwight K. Schrute: ‘Don’t be an idiot.’ Changed my life.

Michael looks puzzled. Dwight explains to the camera.

Dwight K. Schrute: Whenever I’m about to do something, I think, ‘Would an idiot do that?’ And if they would, I do not do that thing.

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.

Examinations will also include material presented only in lecture, including presentations made by guest speakers. Students are expected to attend all lectures, complete the required readings, make regular entries on Carmen, participate in in-class writing and discussion, and **take the exams on the scheduled dates**. Students are also expected to take a proactive role by seeking assistance from the TA or 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.

Multimedia: This class will make use of a significant number of visual and auditory materials, including film and music. This material was deliberately chosen to complement

readings and lecture, and should be considered as such – i.e., students should be attentive, take notes, and pay careful attention to this content, as it will be fair game for the exams.

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 is preferred. **Email communication should not be a substitute for face-to-face communication.** Use of the Carmen discussion board is also encouraged. See the attached email etiquette handout for more information.

Classroom etiquette: Please come to class on time. Please minimize eating, drinking or talking so as not to disturb the other students. **Responsible use of cellphones or web-enabled devices is permitted but should not interfere with class participation.** Anyone visibly disruptive may be asked to leave.

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

Weekly Carmen entries: Each week, students should make a posting of ~200 words on the Carmen discussion board in reaction to the readings.

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.

Movie Nights: Together with my advanced class (Geog 5401: Economies, Society and Space), 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	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.

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	Readings
1	Tue	25-Aug	Introduction to the course	
<u>Our Global Economy</u>				
	Th	27-Aug	<i>1-800 INDIA</i>	
2	Tue	1-Sep	Supply chains	Apple 'failing to protect Chinese factory workers'
	Th	3-Sep	Global economic change	Globalization and the shifting balance in the world economy
3	Tue	8-Sep	Global trade and labor	Uneasy Neighbors: A Brief History of Mexican-U.S. Migration
	Th	10-Sep	Vulnerability	After the Storm: The Haves and the Have-Nots
4	Tue	15-Sep	<i>T-Shirt Travels</i>	
<u>How We Work</u>				
	Th	17-Sep	<i>No Logo</i>	My Life As A McDonald's Worker
5	Tue	22-Sep	White collar crisis	Why you hate work
	Th	24-Sep	Pink collar jobs	The Pink-Collar Job Boom
	Th	24-Sep	Movie Night: <i>The Full Monty</i>	Stillman Hall 100, 7-9 pm
6	Tue	29-Sep	Human trafficking	The Not-So-Free Market
	Th	1-Oct	Prison labor	10 Shocking Things You Didn't Know Were Made by Prison Labor
7	Tue	6-Oct	First Midterm Exam	
<u>What We Buy</u>				
	Th	8-Oct	Consumption as social act	The Hipster Trap
8	Tue	13-Oct	Chick lit	Eat, Pray, Spend
	Th	15-Oct	Autumn Break: No Class	
9	Tue	20-Oct	Consumption as city strategy	If you build it, they might not come
	Th	22-Oct	Neoliberalism and consumption	How Turbo Tax killed free and simple tax filing
10	Tue	27-Oct	<i>Cappuccino Trail</i>	
	Th	29-Oct	Capitalism and social values?	Markets and Morals
	Th	29-Oct	Movie Night: <i>Who is Dayani Cristal?</i>	Stillman Hall 100, 7-9 pm
<u>Children and the Economy</u>				
11	Tue	3-Nov	<i>Consuming Kids</i>	Spoiled Rotten: Why do kids rule the roost?
	Th	5-Nov	Global child	Photos of Children From Around the World
12	Tue	10-Nov	<i>Frontline Poor Kids</i>	

	Th	12-Nov	Gender roles	Interactive Reader, Sexist Much?
13	Tue	17-Nov	Poverty in a high-tech economy	For Poor, Leap to College Often Ends in a Hard Fall
<u>The Sex Economy</u>				
	Th	19-Nov	Second Midterm Exam	
	Th	19-Nov	Movie Night: <i>Stripped</i>	Hagerty Hall 180, 7-9 pm
14	Tue	24-Nov	Introduction to the body	Dove Does Not Give a Shit About Whether or Not
	Th	26-Nov	<i>Thanksgiving, No Class</i>	
15	Tue	1-Dec	Sex work	The U.S. military's long, uncomfortable history with prostitution
	Th	3-Dec	Sex tourism	Brazil's sex trade
16	Tue	8-Dec	College sex work	'Duke Porn Star': I Lost My Financial Aid
	Fri	11-Dec	FINAL EXAM 8 - 9:45 a.m.	