

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Geography 3440-001/5440-001 – Economic Geography

Autumn Semester 2006

Lectures: M, W, and F 9:40-10:30am

Office hours (OSH 270 G): M & W 12:45-1:45PM PM. Telephone: 581-3610

Instructor: Professor T. Kontuly

Classroom: MBH 306

Required text: *The World Economy: Resources, Location, Trade, and Development*. Fourth edition. 2005. Fredrick P. Stutz and Barney Warf (S&W). Pearson / Prentice Hall. Upper Saddle River, NJ. - Available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

Introduction

The geographer's viewpoint is a spatial one, focusing on the content of areas, their interactions and relationships with other areas, and on the behavior and processes that give rise to the patterns, structure, and organization of space.

The spatial arrangement of human economic activity is (for the most part) a reflection of the aspatial (institutional, political, economic and social) processes operating in society, such as those generating employment, unemployment, technological change, etc. Consequently, the patterns, structures, and organization of economic space are an outcome of the many and complex processes inherent in the way developed society is organized.

Objective of the class

The objective of this course will be to provide an overview of the field of Economic Geography and its linkages to related issues of development and underdevelopment, international business, and the global economy.

Economic Geography focuses on the ways in which economic activity is stretched over the space of the earth's surface. Economists too rarely take the spatial dimension seriously, a perspective that implies that all economic activity takes place on the head of a pin. Geographers, by contrast, are interested in the manner in which social relations and activities occur unevenly over space, the ways in which local places and the global economy are intertwined, and the difference that location makes to how economic activity is organized. No social process occurs in exactly the same way in different places. Thus, where and when economic activity occurs has a profound influence on how it occurs. Space, then, can no longer be relegated to the sidelines. As globalization has made small differences among places increasingly, space has become more, not less, important.

Globalization – the growing integration of economies and societies around the world – continues to transform the world economy at an ever-increasing rate. This new world economy links distant peoples and places so that what happens in one place shapes what happens in another through networks of interdependence. While most people recognize the widespread changes brought about by globalization, many disagree on whether the benefits outweigh the costs. Economic Geography provides an excellent vehicle toward understanding today's increasingly interdependent world.

Course outline

August 23 – Introduction to the class. Course requirements.

August 25, 28 & 30– Economic Geography: An Introduction (Chapter 1)

September 1 – The Historical Development of Capitalism (Chapter 2)

September 4 – No class – Labor Day holiday

September 6, 8, 13 & 15 - The Historical Development of Capitalism (Chapter 2)

September 18, 20 & 22 – Population (Chapter 3)

September 25 – Review & Discussion for EXAM I

September 27 – EXAM I

September 29 & October 2 - Population (Chapter 3)

October 4 – Theoretical Considerations (Chapter 5)

October 6 – No class – Fall Break

October 9 – Theoretical Considerations (Chapter 5)

October 11 & 13 – Agriculture (Chapter 6)

October 16, 18, 20 & 23 - Manufacturing (Chapter 7)

October 25 & 27 - Services (Chapter 8).

October 30 – Review & Discussion for EXAM II

November 3 – EXAM II

November 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17 & 20– Cities and Urban Economies (Chapter 10).

November 22 – Student Presentations

November 24 – No class – Holiday

November 27 & 29 – Student Presentations

December 4 - Review & Discussion for EXAM III

December 6 – EXAM III – Term Papers Due

Policy Statement

Attendance is required of all students. The textbook for the course *The World Economy: Resources, Location, Trade, and Development* (by Fredrick P. Stutz and Barney Warf) is also required, because material, maps, graphs, and tables in the textbook will be consulted and discussed during the course. Exams will be given on September 27th, November 3rd and December 6th. Exams are closed book tests. Term papers are due on December 6th.

Grade Contribution

Exam I	25% of total grade
Exam II	25% of total grade
Exam III	20% of total grade
Term Paper & presentation	30% of total grade
100% of total grade	

Term Papers:

The term paper is to be an "empirically based research essay". The focus is to be on the economic space economy of a country other than the USA and you can select any topic discussed in the textbook. You may focus on the entire country or on a particular region with a specific economic problem. For example, you could focus on the country of Germany and evaluate different regions as potential locations for specific firms or industries. Or, you could focus on the chronic unemployment problem in the eastern part of Germany or the demise of heavy industry and the mining sector in the Ruhr region of western Germany and offer possible solutions for these regional problems. You may include data on the USA but only for comparative purposes. Excellent background data are available through the Internet. See for instance:

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/> or
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/0,,pagePK:180619~theSitePK:136917,00.html>.

Papers are to be typed double-spaced and must be a minimum of 12 pages in length. These 12 pages may include maps and photos but not the references / sources.

Oral presentation of student term papers

For your presentation you will use PowerPoint and your presentation will last 10 minutes. Copies of your PowerPoint presentation can also be handed out to the class.

Disability Statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
