

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
& ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
University of Regina, Winter 2019

GEOG 222/IS 290AA: Global Economies, Local Lives

Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:00 - 11:15 am, CL 418

Instructor: Emily Eaton – emily.eaton@uregina.ca

Office hours: By appointment

Course Description:

An introduction to economic geography tracing the processes of economic globalization and localization. Emphasis on the development of the global economy as it plays out in local places with particular histories and cultures. Focus on the crisis of Fordism and the restructuring of resource industries, manufacturing, services and finance. A number of questions animate the course including:

- What is capitalism and how does it function on a world scale?
- How is wealth accumulated? Where is it accumulated and under what conditions?
- How is wealth distributed? Who gets to keep what?
- How are economies regulated?
- How are economies constituted by social, ecological and cultural processes?
- How do systemic processes of racialization and gendering affect workers and consumers?
- What role does consumption play in economies?

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Understand how global capitalism functions
- Explain the main concepts that animate the field of economic geography
- Demonstrate the importance of cultural, natural and social processes to economies
- Understand how economic processes connect their own lives with those of others
- Make arguments based on supporting evidence
- Critically evaluate arguments

Required Readings:

Your required textbook for this course is **available at the University bookstore:**

Coe, N., Kelly, P. and Yeung, H. (2013). Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction. 2nd ed. Wiley.

Additional required readings will be available on UR Courses.

Required Assignments and Evaluation:

Grading Scheme:

Midterm exam (February 13)	25%
Class participation	10%
Chapter presentation.....	10%
Behind the headlines proposal (Due Feb 4)	10%
Behind the headlines essay (Due April 1)	20%
Final exam.....	25%

Class Participation:

For at least half of the class on Wednesdays the course will be run as a seminar where students will discuss and analyse the selection of readings for that week. I have kept the reading load light in order for all students to be able to keep up with it on a weekly basis. Your participation (including your participation on the UR Courses weekly readings forum) will be graded and reflected in your final mark (see the rubric on UR Courses).

Chapter Presentation:

Students will be assigned to present on one chapter during the weekly seminar. This presentation should last no longer than 10 minutes. Students are also responsible for posting a relevant news article and 3-5 questions related to the chapter on the UR Courses forum on the Monday before they present. They are expected to introduce their questions to the class during the seminar. See UR Courses for more details on this assignment.

Behind the Headlines Proposal and Essay:

Students are required to submit a 'Behind the Headlines' assignment in two stages (a proposal and an essay). Students will choose a story that is in the news and provide an analysis of the issue using course concepts, academic literature, and an economic geography perspective. More on this assignment is available on the UR Courses website.

Policies:

1. Students are expected to attend ALL classes and make every attempt to be **on time**.
2. Readings will serve as the basis for course lectures and class participation. Students are expected to have read the required weekly readings **before the class**.
3. Students are expected to **participate in a respectful manner** in class discussions and small groups.
4. **Plagiarism** (representing someone else's idea or their work as your own) **will not be tolerated**. Students are expected to **read and comply** with <http://www.uregina.ca/arts/student-resources/avoiding-academic-misconduct/plagiarism.html>
5. **Late penalties of 5%** of the assignment's value per day will be applied to all written work.

6. Students are encouraged to use the **Student Success Centre** for help with their assignments. Find a complete range of services at <http://www.uregina.ca/student/ssc>
7. If you are a student with **accessibility needs** and may benefit from accommodations, please come and discuss this with me, as well as contacting the Centre for Student Accessibility at <http://www.uregina.ca/student/accessibility>
8. Students should arrange to meet with their instructor to have their course-related questions answered fully. They can expect to wait 2 days for replies to their emails to the instructor
9. Select readings and course information is **available on UR Courses** You are responsible for making sure you are signed up for this course on UR Courses and for keeping up-to-date with the course on that forum. Notifications I send out through UR Courses will go to your **UofR email address**. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are checking your UofR account regularly.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings
Jan 9	A geographical approach to the economy	None
Jan 14 + 16	What is capitalism? Why is capitalist development so uneven?	Chapters 2 + 3
Jan 21 + 23	What is imperialism? What are settler economies?	Art Manuel chaps 3,4,5 + 8 Leanne Simpson interview
Jan 28 + 30	Why has finance become so powerful?	Chapter 7
Feb 4 + 6	Economic actors: States + corporations	Chapters 4 + 10
Feb 11 + 13	States + corporations + Midterm	None
Feb 18 + 20	Reading Week	None
Feb 25 + 27	Economic actors: Workers	Chapter 6
March 4 + 6	Can nature be a commodity?	Chapter 5
March 11 + 13	Commodity chains and consumption	Chapter 8
March 18 + 20	Technological change	Chapters 9
March 25 + 27	Cultural economies and the creative class	Chapters 3+4 of Florida's "The rise of the creative class"
April 1 + 3	The gendering and racializing of economies	Chapter 13 + 14
April 8 + 10	Alternative economies	Coulthard For our Nations to Live, Capitalism Must Die + Kallis, Kerschner & Martinez-Alier (2012)