University of Regina

Geog 222: Global Economies, Local Lives
Winter, 2015
WF 2:30 to 3:45 - CL 128

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

Office hours: CL 339 Thursdays 2:30 - 4pm

Prerequisite: Geog 100 or 120; or permission from Department Head

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 does globalization affect communities and economic sectors differently?
- 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 the functioning of global capitalism
- 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
Arts Cares:
In this course students have the OPTION of enrolling in the Faculty of Arts service learning programme called Arts Cares. Arts Cares involves 15 hours of volunteer service and additional workshops and learning during the February break (Feb 17-20). Arts Cares students will use their volunteer experience as the basis for their Behind the Headlines assignment. More information will be available on UR Courses.

Readings:
The readings for this course (available at the UofR bookstore) will be drawn primarily from: Coe, N., Kelly, P. and Yeung, H. (2013). Economic Geography, a Contemporary Introduction. 2nd ed. Wiley.
Supplementary reading will be available on UR Courses

Assignments and evaluation:
Midterm exam (February 25) ............................................................... 25%
Class participation ............................................................. 10%
Chapter presentation................................................................. 10%
Behind the Headlines 1 (Due Feb 11).............................................. 15%
Behind the Headlines 2 (Due April 1).............................................. 15%
Final exam........................................................................... 25%

Class Participation:
For at least half of the class on Fridays 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:
Each student will be assigned to present on one chapter during the weekly seminar. This presentation should last no longer than 15 minutes. Students are also responsible for posting a relevant new article and 3-5 questions related to the chapter on the UR Courses forum on the Wednesday 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:
Students are required to submit two ‘Behind the Headlines’ assignments. For each assignment students will choose a story that is in the news and provide an analysis of the issue using course concepts, 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 (the representation as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work) 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 writing service (RC 230 ph 585-4076) for help with their assignments.
7. If you are a student with special needs and may have a need for accommodations, please come and discuss this with me, as well as contacting the Centre for Student Accessibility at 585-4631.
8. Students should make every attempt to attend office hours to have their course-related questions answered. 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7, 9</td>
<td>A geographical approach to the economy</td>
<td>Chapters 1 and 2</td>
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<td>Jan 14, 16</td>
<td>Why is development uneven? Understanding capitalism</td>
<td>Chapter 3 and “Making Maritimers Mobile” (see UR Courses)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 21, 23</td>
<td>Why has finance become so powerful?</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>Jan 28, 30</td>
<td>Can nature be a commodity?</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 4, 6</td>
<td>Economic actors: states and corporations</td>
<td>Chapters 4 and 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 11, 13</td>
<td>Economic actors: corporations and workers</td>
<td>Chapters 10 and 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25, 27</td>
<td>Commodity chains + Midterm exam</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 6</td>
<td>Commodities and consumption</td>
<td>Chapters 11 and 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11, 13</td>
<td>Technological change and spatial clusters</td>
<td>Chapters 9 and 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18, 20</td>
<td>The gendering and racializing of economies</td>
<td>Chapters 13 and 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25, 27</td>
<td>Cultural economies and the creative class</td>
<td>Chapters 3, 4 and 15 of Florida’s “The rise of the creative class” see UR courses</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>Alternative economies</td>
<td>Gibson-Graham (2003) Available on UR courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8, 10</td>
<td>Alternative economies + Wrap-up and Review</td>
<td>none</td>
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