



GEO 3502: Economic Geography
University of Florida - Department of Geography
Spring 2021
Credits: 3; Prereq: none
Class Number: 13947

This course is offered on Tuesday from 8:30-9:20 AM
and on Thursday from 8:30-10:25AM

Updated: January 4, 2021

Instructor

Dr. Olivier J. Walther, Department of Geography, 3205 Turlington Hall, owalther@ufl.edu.
Office hours: by appointment.

Overview

The world is becoming increasingly connected. Yet, the benefits of globalization have not been shared equally across the regions. What makes regions competitive? Why are some cities more innovative than others? How do borders affect human flows and ideas?

The aim of this course is to study the spatial causes and consequences of uneven development. The course provides a general introduction to economic geography, a science that examines how societies, firms and states make use of space through their economic activities.

The course first discusses the concepts developed in economic geography to understand uneven economic development across the world. It then examines how money, states, firms and workers reshape the global economic landscape. Finally, the course considers the territorial consequences of uneven development for local societies, firms and regions and discusses possible policies that can contribute to reduce territorial disparities.

At the end of the course, you will be able to reflect on the major drivers of territorial change observed across the world using a variety of concepts developed in economic geography. You will also be able to find relevant data pertaining to the evolution of cities, regions and countries, organize the data into tables, maps, or graphs, and apply your knowledge of the spatial economy to compare major trends across regions.

Schedule

Jan 12	Course introduction (McK&C 2019, chap 1, pp. 3-13)
Jan 14	Key concepts in economic geography (Thrift 2008) + Exercise 1
Jan 19	Key concepts in economic geography (McK&C 2019, chap 2: 26-34)
Jan 21	Regions and regional geography (Jones 2017)
Jan 26	Population (Rosling 2014, 00:00-11:30, 19:15-26:20)
Jan 28	Exercise 2. Working with spatial data (Yau 2013, chapter 4, pp. 146-161)
Feb 2	Production, industrial districts and clusters (McK&C 2019, chap 3, pp. 58-85)
Feb 4	Exercise 3. Mapping spatial data 1 (ArcGIS)
Feb 9	Finance (McK&C 2019, chap 4, pp. 102-113)
Feb 11	Exercise 4. Mapping spatial data 2 (ArcGIS)
Feb 16	Labor and knowledge-intensive activities (McK&C 2019, chap 6, pp. 174-178)
Feb 18	Exercise 5. Spatial inequalities (Glaeser 2011: 69-91)
Feb 23	Development (McK&C 2019, chap 7, pp. 197-203)
Feb 25	Exercise 6. Mapping development. First optional assignment due Feb 25, 11:59PM
Mar 2	State and governance (McK&C 2019, chap 5, pp. 130-142)
Mar 4	Q&A on mid-term paper – Mid-term paper due March 4th at 11:59PM
Mar 9	Transport, communication, the digital economy (McK&C 2019, chap 8, 227-234)
Mar 11	Transport policies (Walther et al. 2019a)
Mar 16	Networks, value chains and space (Walther et al. 2019b)
Mar 18	Exercise 7. Economic networks (McK&C 2019, chap 9, pp. 254-265)
Mar 23	Cities, urban agglomeration, innovation (McK&C 2019, chap 10, pp. 295-303)
Mar 25	Exercise 8. Cities (Shane 2019)
Mar 30	Regional integration and borders (World Bank 2009: 96-102)
Apr 1	Exercise 9. Borders (OECD 2019)
Apr 6	Lecture: V. Valerio, <i>Regional livestock trade in West Africa</i> (Valerio et al. 2020)
Apr 8	Second optional assignment due April 8th at 11:59PM
Apr 13	Tourism (Hall and Page 2014: 1-11)
Apr 15	Exercise 10. Tourism (Davis 2017, chap 9, pp. 253-260)
Apr 20	Course overview, questions and answers – Final paper due April 26th at 11:59PM

Final grade

Online attendance and participation	10 points
Mid-term paper	40 points
Final paper	50 points
Total	100 points

Up to 10 extra credits can be earned by completing additional assignments. The class will be out of 100 total points and the optional assignments will not hurt your grades.

The major assessment components of this course include:

- Regular online attendance and participation: students are expected to be at every online class meeting throughout the entire class session, and must not be reading other materials or use their cell phones. Participation entails responding to questions directed by the instructor and participating in peer-initiated discussions as well.
- Mid-term assignment (at least 2000 words). This descriptive paper will use statistical data from various sources to study the recent economic evolution of a region of your choice. For more information, see “How to write your mid-term paper” on [Canvas](#). The final paper is due **February 25th at 11:59PM on Canvas**.
- Final paper (at least 4000 words). This analytical paper will apply some of the key concepts developed in economic geography to study the evolution of a region, using the existing literature and quantitative data. For more information, see “How to write your final paper” on [Canvas](#). The final paper is due **April 26th at 11:59PM on Canvas**.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following numerical scale:

A: 93-100+, A-: 90-92, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82, C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72, D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62, E: <60, E1: stopped attending, I: incomplete. For more information, visit UF’s [Grading Policies](#).

This course will fulfill the University of Florida’s Writing and Math Requirement (formerly Gordon Rule). This means that students in this course are required to write at least 6,000 words in assignments throughout the semester. For more information on the Writing and Math Requirement, please examine this [link](#) at the Office of the Registrar.

Literature

Textbook

The textbook for the course is *Introduction to Economic Geography. Globalization, Uneven Development and Place* by Danny MacKinnon & Andrew Cumbers (third edition, 2019). Two hard copies are reserved for this class at the library.

Supplemental readings

- Davis JE. 2017. *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*. New York, W.W. Norton.
- Glaeser E. 2011. *Triumph of the City. How our Greatest Invention Makes us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier*. New York, Penguin.
- Hall MC, Page SJ. 2014. *The Geography of Tourism and Recreation*. London, Routledge.
- Jones M. 2016. Regional Geography, in Richardson D et al. (eds) *International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment and Technology*, New York, Wiley, 1-4.
- OECD 2019. Regional integration in border cities. Paris, OECD *West African Papers* 20.
- Rosling H. 2014. Don't Panic, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAcK2knC08E>, 00:00-11:30 Fertility, 19:15-26:20 Mortality
- Shane S. 2019. Prime Mover: How Amazon Wove Itself Into the Life of an American City. *The New York Times*, Nov. 30.
- Thrift N. 2008. Space: the fundamental stuff of human geography, in Clifford N, Holloway S, Rice SP, Valentine G. (eds) *Key Concepts in Geography*. New York, Sage: 85-96.
- Valerio, V. C., Walther, O. J., Eilittä, M., Cissé, B., Muneeppeerakul, R., & Kiker, G. A. (2020). Network analysis of regional livestock trade in West Africa. *PloS One*, 15(5), e0232681.
- Walther O, Dambo L, Koné M, van Eupen M. 2019a. Mapping travel time to assess accessibility in West Africa: The role of borders, checkpoints and road conditions. *Journal of Transport Geography* 82.
- Walther O, Tenikue M, Trémolières M. 2019b. Economic performance, gender and social networks in West African food systems. *World Development* 124: 1-14.
- World Bank. 2009. *World Development Report. Reshaping Economic Geography*. Washington, DC, The World Bank.
- Yau N. 2013. *Data Points. Visualization That Means Something*. New York, Wiley, chapter 4.

Software

Students must have their own laptop or desktop computer. We will work with three programs (Excel, ArcGIS, and ORA) available on [UF Apps](#). The students are responsible for installing the software on their own computer or accessing UF Apps. The instructor cannot be held responsible for any damage or malfunction resulting from the installation or use of the programs.

Ethics

Please review the University's policies regarding [student conduct and conflict resolution](#), available through the Dean of Students Office [website](#). Any violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a failing grade for the course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs.

Other information

A course description is available here: <https://one.ufl.edu/soc/>

Books and articles can be accessed using UF's Libraries: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/>. To find a scientific journal, please go to [Journals](#) of use [Google Scholar](#).

The course is delivered online. It includes online lectures, discussions, tutorial exercises, and case studies. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with [university policies](#).

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.

If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.