

Georgia State University
GEOG: 4762
CRN 87470
Economic Geography
MW 2:45 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.
Kell Hall 314

Professor Parama Roy
Email: proy@gsu.edu
Phone: 404 413 5779
Office: 352A Sparks Hall
Office hours: Wednesday 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description

- Economic geographers study and attempt to explain the spatial configuration of economic activities, the process of uneven geographical development, and the role of state, market and civil society agents in management of the economy. A geographic understanding of the economy has always been important in order to recognize how space, place and spatial scales shape economic activities in different parts of the world rendering some to emerge as economic powerhouses like the U.S. and others as dependant and underdeveloped economies like that of Mexico. However, contemporary economic relations under the global industrial capitalism are full of contradictions: As such, while the U.S. is one of the world's richest nations, the economic inequality of the American population remains greater than any other Western industrialized nation; China, considered among one of the developing economies until 20 years ago has now emerged as one of the most prominent global economic power; one of the world's developing nations, India is presently enticing away 40% of all the outsourced jobs from the U.S. strengthening its economy, yet creating further regional and social inequality. Using a political-economic approach we will attempt to understand these contradictory trends of the present capitalist economy and its implications for different nations, regions, and socio-cultural groups.

Learning Objectives

- The goals of this course are 1) to develop an understanding of the capitalist economy and its relations to unevenness through a geographic lens; 2) to learn how economic processes must be understood within the context of global and local environmental, socio-cultural, and political processes; 3) to think and write critically about economic processes. Every day we are exposed to a sea of information, ideas, and opinions about the world's globalizing economy. Critical thinking provides us with the ability to analyze and evaluate the validity of this information. Therefore, through reading and writing assignments we will develop this ability to think and write critically.

Required Text

Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction (2007) by Neil Coe, Phillip Kelly and Henry Yeung.

It is imperative that you keep up with the readings and possibly with the daily news to create and maintain your own sense of global (and local) awareness. In addition you will be asked to read supplementary materials and research on particular topics using library resources in order to complete the reflective assignments and better understand the course material.

NOTE: I will either post the additional readings on the course website or email PDFs. If you utilize another email than GSU account, it is your responsibility to ensure that I have your correct email address. I reserve the right to add or remove readings as the semester progresses.

Evaluation

Item	Weight
Reflective assignments	45%
Final Research Paper and Presentation	40%
Participation	15%

Grading Scheme

Above 93%: A	77 - 79.9%: C+
90 - 92.9%: A-	73 - 76.9%: C
87 - 89.9%: B+	70 - 72.9%: C-
83 - 86.9%: B	60 - 69.9%: D
80 - 82.9%: B-	Below 60%: F

Assignments

Reflective assignments will be a crucial part of the course work. Other than thoroughly reading the book and the lecture notes you will often be asked to read supplementary material and research on relevant topics to complete these assignments. These assignments will be geared towards improving your understanding of the course material and developing your critical thinking skill. Sometimes, these assignments may ask you to critically analyze part of the weekly assigned readings and sometimes it may ask you to use the readings to understand a real life incident or scenario.

Undergraduate students will get constructive feedback on their first submission from the writing consultant and the professor. Based on those feedbacks they will be required to revise and resubmit these assignments, which will then be graded. This will help students to improve their responses.

Research Paper: In addition students will be required to complete a research paper and present the paper to the class at the end of the semester. Detail instructions on the paper will be provided in a separate handout to all students. This assignment will comprise of 4 parts. First, you will be asked to submit a short written proposal (10% of the grade for Research Paper). You will also be required to discuss your proposal in 5-6 minutes in front of the class. Second, you will submit a draft of the final paper (which will not be graded but returned with comments and suggestions for improvement). Third, you will resubmit the FINAL paper with suggested corrections (this will be graded out of 20 percentage points). Finally, you will present your research paper in a short 10-15 minutes presentation in the class (10% of the grade for Research Paper).

Participation in class

Your active participation in the class is essential. It will count towards 15% of your grades. Participation includes joining in class discussions, making effort to constructively participate in group work and in class assignments, good attendance, a demonstrated effort to master the course material and timely submissions of assignments. Short in-class exercises (discussion or writing-based) will be frequently assigned. While these assignments will not be graded per se, they will count towards your participation points. If you fail to complete/submit these assignments with sincerity (either because you were absent in class or you simply did not do it or did it rather hastily without much thought) this will affect your participation points.

Other important announcements:

At least once a month, I will solely meet with the graduate students to discuss the additional readings that they will be required to complete for the course (The exact dates will be announced with time in hand). On those days, the undergraduate students will not be required to attend the class. Of course if you are interested in attending and participating in the discussions, you will be more than welcome to do so.

Grading Policy

Make up policy: Reflective assignments must be submitted on the due date. Assignments received thereafter will be counted off 20% points per day. No assignment will be accepted after 4 days of the date it is due.

Expectations

I expect you to be respectful, prepared and involved in this class. I will be working hard to make this course enjoyable to you and I hope you would work with me in making this experience worthwhile for both of us. So, please don't hesitate to ask questions at any time during the course of semester.

Schedule (please keep up with the readings)

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1: 8/17-8/19	A Geographical approach to the economy	Ch 1 & 2	
2: 8/24-8/26	Trajectory of Economic Geography	Handout	
3: 8/31-9/2	Uneven Development	Ch 3	Reflective assignment One
4: 9/7 (Labor day)-9/9	Commodity Chains	Ch 4	
5: 9/14-9/16	Environment vs. economy	Ch 6	Research Proposal
6: 9/21-9/23	Catch-up	-	
7: 9/28-9/30	The State	Ch 7	Reflective assignment two
8: 10/5-10/7	TNC's	Ch 8	
9: 10/12-10/14	Labour	Ch 9	
10: 10/19-10/21	Consumption	Ch 10	
11: 10/26-10/28	Catch-up		Reflective assignment three
12: 11/2-11/4	Gender and economy	Ch 12	
13: 11/9-11/11	Ethnic economies	Ch 13	
14: 11/16-11/18	Presentations		First Draft of Research Paper
15: 11/23-11/25	Thanks Giving		Reflective assignment four
16: 11/30-12/2	Presentations		
Finals week: 12/7	Presentations continued if required.		Final Research Paper

* The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Academic honesty

All work submitted for this course must be completed in accordance with the Georgia State University's policies on academic honesty and integrity. For a description of GSU's policies, please consult the GSU section on Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Catalog. If you are ever uncertain about these guidelines, please consult with the instructor. Any work you submit must be your own and should be submitted for this course only. If you are found in violation of the University's academic honesty policies, the severest punishment will be pursued.

The nitty-gritty required on all syllabi:

1. According to the Georgia State University undergraduate catalog, class attendance is expected; failure to attend classes regularly may result in poor course performance. The university requires instructors to verify attendance early in the term. Failure to attend classes may result in you not appearing on the Verification Roll and being dropped from the class. Please see section 1334 of the catalog at http://www.gsu.edu/es/catalogs_courses.html, and click on the appropriate catalog link to read about attendance policy (posted as a .pdf file).
2. All students should be familiar with the university's course withdrawal procedures. These can be found in section 1332 of the undergraduate catalog.
3. All students are required to be familiar with the Academic Honesty policy of the university and to comply with the policy. This can be found in section 1380 of the undergraduate catalog.
4. Each student must have access to an on-line computer and is responsible for reading all messages sent to his/her university email address, and any other assignments that require the use of a computer. Class changes and/or updates may be conveyed via email, in which case the student is considered to have been informed. The student is required to check this university email box regularly.
5. Accommodations for students with disabilities:
Georgia State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek academic accommodations must first take appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services locate in Suite 230 of the New Student Center.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY: THIS SYLLABUS IS A DRAFT COPY SUBJECTED TO CHANGE. Any modification will be notified by the instructor through all necessary channels. It is the responsibility of the student, however, to be aware of the changes.

Best Wishes for a successful semester!