

# Economic Geography

GE0141

2012-13

## Teaching Team

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## Aim and Themes of the Module

Economic geography is the largest, and one of the oldest sub-discipline of human geography. Put simply, economic geographers investigate the places and spaces of economies, and how place and space shape economies. The range of work we undertake, the theories and concept we adopt, and the cases we study is huge, however. The aim of this module is to show how economic geography can help understand: how economies operate; how and why economies have evolved over time; why certain industries are located in particular places; the role of firms, government and individuals in economic process; and the interconnections between and within different geographical scales.

## Reading Resources

Lectures and seminars will only form part of this module, the reading you do forms the remainder. In fact, the reading you do is the most important part of the module. To help you find the most relevant stuff reading lists will be provided for each lecture, divided into essential texts and further reading. Essential texts will give you an overview of the subject matter introduced in a lecture and we expect you to read all of them. Further reading texts will provide deeper or more specific detail on the topic, give you an opportunity to explore aspects or case studies you are interested in, and we expect you to read some of these. The lists we provide you with are not exhaustive and we encourage you to search for other chapters and articles of relevance. You should also keep abreast of economic news through the media.

## Key Texts

There are three key books that form the core of the essential reading we expect you to do. There are copies available in the library (electronically where possible) but you may want to purchase one of them.

Coe, N.M. (2007) *Economic Geography - A Contemporary Introduction*. Blackwell: Oxford.  
Library reference: 330.9/COE

Mackinnon, D. & Cumbers, A. (2007 and, 2011) *An Introduction to Economic Geography - Globalization, Uneven Development and Place*. Prentice Hall: Harlow.  
Library reference: 330.9/MACK, and also available electronically via the library catalogue and Blackboard.

Sheppard, E. and Barnes, T. (eds.)(2000) *A Companion to Economic Geography*. Blackwell: Oxford.  
Library reference: 330.9/COM

## Other Useful Books

Bryson, J. et. Al. (eds.)(1999): *The Economic Geography Reader*; John Wiley: Chichester  
Library reference: 330.9/ECO

Coe, N. and Jones, A. (2010) *The economic Geography of the UK*. Sage: London  
Library reference: 330.941086/ECO

Dicken, P. (various): *Global Shift. Reshaping the Global Economic Map in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Sage: London.  
Library reference: 338.09/DIC

Mohan, J. (1999) *A United Kingdom? Economic, Social and Political Geographies*. Arnold: London.  
Library reference: 914.203/UNI

Peck, J. and Yeung, H. W-C. (eds.)(2003) *Remaking the Global Economy*. Sage: London  
Library reference: 330.9/REM

## Journals and Encyclopedia

Unless otherwise stated these are available via NORA and/or links on Blackboard

For useful starting points:

- International Encyclopedia of Human Geography
- Dictionary of Human Geography – 304.203/DIC
- Progress in Human Geography
- Geography Compass

Economic geography specific journals

- Journal of Economic Journal
- Economic Geography
- Regional Studies
- International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
- Environment and Planning A, B & C

General geography journals also publish economic geography articles.

## **Module Assessment**

The module is assessed through two assignments which are both worth 50% of your final mark:

Assignment 1 – Essay (2000 words)

Answer one question from the list we will provide you with mid-way through the first semester.

Deadline: TBC

Assignment 2 – Seen Exam

In the summer you will sit a seen exam where you should answer two questions in two hours.

Questions will be provided a few weeks before the exam.

## **Timetable**

The module is divided into five parts designed to help structure your understanding of economic geography. There are 20 lectures and six seminars. The order is subject to change.

### **Part 1 – Introducing Economic Geographies**

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#### **1. Introduction to Economic Geography – JS & RK**

- introduction to the module
- what is economic geography?

#### **2. Geographies of Money – JS**

- functions and forms of money
- global financial system – drivers, impacts, power

### **Part 2 – Dynamics of Economic Space**

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#### **3. A Spatial and Social History of ‘The Economy’ and Varieties of Capitalism – RK**

- a geo-spatial history of the capitalist economy: world systems analysis, revolutions and transformations
- varieties of capitalism: different styles and capitalism in different countries at any one time, and within a country over time

### **Seminar 1 – What Makes Britain Rich?**

#### **4. Commodity and Value Chain – RK**

- what are the stages of production of goods and services?
- how and where is value added in this process?

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

#### **5. Branch Plants and Foreign Direct Investment - RK**

- The reasons for, role and impact of FDI
- ‘Embedding’ TNC branch plants - regional UK perspectives

#### **6. Economies of Nature - RK**

- material transformations - from raw inputs to products and recycling and re-use
- environmental dimension of the capitalist economy

### **Seminar 2 – The Chips are Down: Branch Plant Economies**

#### **7. The Role of Knowledge in the Economy - JS**

- rise of the ‘knowledge economy’
- geographies of knowledge & innovation

### **No Lecture – Dissertation Presentation Week**

- Go and watch third years present their dissertation projects
- Catch up on your reading

### **Part 3 – Actors in Economic Spaces**

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#### **8. Sub-National Governance of the Economy - JS**

- how the economy is governed at the sub-national scale

#### **9. The State, Supra-National and International Bodies - RK**

- The role of nation states in economic development
- Pan-national groupings/trade blocs / global trade bodies

### **Seminar 3 – McDonaldisation**

#### **10. Firms – An Analytical Typology – RK**

- Imperatives, behaviour , and regulation of different types of firms
- Developing an analytical grid to assess firms & case studies

### **11. Labour Geographies – RK**

- The role of labour in production
- Labour markets and relations

### **Part 4 – Places and Spaces of the Economy**

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### **12. China in the World Economy – PT**

- China 's role in global production networks
- International Outsourcing

### **13. Consumption and Retail – JS**

- geographies of retail & consumption
- geographies of brands

### **14. Agglomeration Economies - JS**

- why do some industries cluster?
- What are the advantages of agglomeration?

### **15. Labour Migration – IF**

### **Part 5 – Theory and Case Studies**

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### **16. Political-Economy and Feminist Perspectives - RK**

- Structures and regulation of markets - interests and stakeholders
- Feminist economic geography / economics

### **17. A cultural and institutional perspective - JS**

- cultural turn and economic geography
- institutional turn and economic geography

### **18. Case Study 1 - RK**

- you get to pick the lecture's focus

### **19. Case Study 2 - JS**

- you get to pick the lecture's focus

### **20 – Revision Lecture – JS & RK**

- exam preparation