

# ISSUES IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

## GEOGRAPHY 2302 | FALL 2013

### COURSE DETAILS

Instructor	Andrew Song Office: IIC 3063 (may change) Phone: 864-8019 (may change) E-mail: <a href="mailto:amsong@mun.ca">amsong@mun.ca</a> Website: <a href="http://www.mun.ca/geog/people/grad/andrewsong.php">www.mun.ca/geog/people/grad/andrewsong.php</a>
Office Hours	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 14:00 – 15:00 pm or by appointment
Class	SN 2067, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 13:00 – 13:50
Textbook	Coe, N., Kelly, P., & Yeung, H. (2013). <i>Economic geography: A contemporary introduction</i> . 2nd edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.  The course will utilize a series of readings assigned for each lecture. Individual readings are listed at the end of this syllabus.
Teaching Assistant	Janelle Skeard Office: SN 2005 Email: <a href="mailto:janelle.skeard@mun.ca">janelle.skeard@mun.ca</a> Website: <a href="http://ruralresilience.ca/?page_id=352">http://ruralresilience.ca/?page_id=352</a>
Course Website	<a href="https://online.mun.ca">https://online.mun.ca</a>

### COURSE CONTENT

We live in a time of significant and ongoing economic change. Economic life is being restructured and reorganized rapidly and fundamentally. The impacts of change are distributed unevenly across space and increasingly both local and global. Understanding patterns and processes of economic change, how these patterns and processes impact our daily lives and those of other people and places is the focus of this course.

The course is taught from a sustainable development perspective, exploring interactions between interconnected economic, social and ecological systems. Students are introduced to multi-scale actor networks that influence and are affected by economic processes. Students are required to critically consider their own roles as active participants within these networks. Finally, students are introduced to development approaches that seek to steer current economic processes on to a more equitable and ecologically sustainable path.

The course is organized in four parts:

- Part One      Conceptual Foundations of Economic Geography
- Part Two      Components of Economic Geography and their Interactions

Part Three Geographical Organization of Economic Relationships

Part Four Introduction to Development Geography and Alternative Economic Geographies

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course students should be able to:

- describe contemporary economic processes such as globalization, agglomeration, commodification and uneven development;
- discuss current issues and debates related to these processes from sustainable development and economic-geographical perspectives;
- understand key concepts in economic geography;
- critically apply these concepts to help understand particular patterns and characteristics of economic change at multiple scales; and
- competently express this application and understanding both orally and in writing

In exploring some of the main processes and outcomes of globalization and economic change students will be introduced to a number of important geographic and economic concepts. These include:

comparative advantage; uneven development; supply and demand; factors of production; product, business, and economic cycles; product/commodity chains; life cycle analysis; scale economies and diseconomies; de-industrialization; time-space convergence/divergence; geographic inertia and path dependency; clustering; innovation; theories and scales of development.

Additional learning objectives will be provided throughout the course and are listed in each chapter of the course text. Students should pay close attention to these objectives and aims, using them as a guide for study purposes. The course textbook also includes useful review questions and recommended resources.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

To achieve these goals the course introduces concepts, case studies and tools and techniques that will allow you to better understand, present and apply these concepts. Learning to use tools and techniques in research, writing, presenting and economic geography will be useful in both your academic studies and in careers in geography and other fields. Tools and techniques introduced in the course include: comparative and pattern analysis; illustrating product/commodity chains, relationships and social networks; analyzing and presenting statistics; multiple objectives analysis; research, writing and presentation skills; identifying and summarizing key points; and qualitative research methods.

While much of this course is lecture-based, in-class dialogue and activities, independent reflection and project-based learning are also important components. Most of the material discussed will be supported by PowerPoint presentations, which will be made available on the course website. Guest speakers and video materials will also be used along with illustrative case studies from multiple economic sectors and varied local and international contexts.

The textbook is an integral part of the course. It is essential that students read the text and other readings carefully. Read ahead of the material to be covered in class. Do not rely solely on the PowerPoint materials. While these may provide a source of examples of specific themes, they are only a guide to your reading.

Students are expected to engage in active learning, participating in discussion and activities throughout the semester. Self-reflection ability and familiarity with local and global current events gained from attention to the print and television media will be of significant benefit. A schedule of themes to be explored is included below.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Students will be required to complete the following:

Journal Submissions	15%
Mid-term exam	20%
Term project	35%
Final exam	30%

Personal Impact and Reflection Journal Submissions – 15%

On five assigned Mondays you are required to submit a “journal page” describing an economic activity you were involved in, current events or local circumstances and reflects on how these activities or events relate to the course material. Specific questions for each week will be provided to help you with your submissions. Submissions are not to exceed one page in length, should be typewritten and must be handed in as you enter class or emailed to instructor (amsong@mun.ca) before class to be considered on time. Each submission will be marked out of three.

Journal submission dates: September 16, September 30, October 21, November 4 and November 18.

Mid-term Exam – 20%

Date: October 10

This test will be written in class and will include a series of short answer questions and one long answer question. The intent is to test your understanding of the material covered in the earlier part of the course but also to provide early feedback and insight into the style of questions to be asked on the final exam.

Term Research Project – 35%

Part A: Topic selection due October 3 (5%)

Part B: In-class presentations November 25, 26, and 28 (10%)

*\*order will be determined in class at least the week before*

Part C: Paper due December 3 (20%)

Project details and grading criteria to be discussed in class and in a research paper assignment handout to be posted on the course website.

Final Exam – 30%

Date and format: *To be announced by Registrar's Office*

This test will be written during a date/time announced by the University. The exam will consist of a series of short and long answer questions. The intent is to test your understanding of materials covered in the course, with an emphasis on Parts Three and Four.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS

The required textbook for the course is:

Coe, N., Kelly, P., & Yeung, H. (2013). *Economic geography: A contemporary introduction*. 2nd edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Other materials will be available on the course website, as handouts, or placed on reserve in the QEII library. In addition to the required textbook, two additional books that may be useful include:

Dickens, P. (2007). *Global shift: Mapping the changing contours of the world economy (5th ed)*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Northey, M., Knight, D., & Draper, D. (2012). *Making sense: A student's guide to research and writing (5th ed)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## COURSE POLICIES

### Attendance and Exam Deferral

Class attendance is strongly recommended as some of the material discussed will not be found in the text or assigned readings. If you are unable to attend class for good reason (e.g. ill-health), I will be happy to recap the material covered. If you are unable to write the mid-term exam for good reason, please discuss these reasons with me in advance and alternative arrangements may be made.

Final examinations cannot be scheduled for any time prior to the regular date and time for any reason. If you know of a legitimate reason why you cannot write the final exam at the assigned time, or you miss the final due to an emergency, go directly to SN-2012 (the Geography office) and fill out an application for a deferred exam. If you have three exams in 24 hours you are entitled to have the middle exam deferred if you choose to do so.

If you find yourself in a position where it is necessary to drop the course or defer examinations the University has a formal process, the Appeal of Regulations, which should be followed. You are advised to show this to your physician if requesting a note of support for medical reasons. This regulation is as follows:

Under Clause 14.4.1 of General Academic Regulation 14 APPEAL OF REGULATIONS, students who request permission to drop courses, withdraw from University studies, have examinations deferred or to obtain other waivers of regulations based on medical grounds are required by the university to produce a note from a physician in support of their request. Such notes should be sufficiently specific to allow a proper consideration of the student's case. Notes should be on letterhead and signed by the physician. Notes should include details on: the specific dates on which the student visited the physician; the degree to which the illness, treatment, etc., is likely to have affected the student's ability to study, attend classes, sit examinations, etc.; the length of time over which the student's abilities were hampered by the medical condition; and, the fitness of the student to resume studies.

Your application for deferral will be reviewed by the Head of the Geography Department and you will be notified of your eligibility and rescheduled exam date and time. Deferred exams are usually held on the first day of classes the following term.

### Late Submissions and Plagiarism (read carefully)

Late journal entries will not be accepted. Term project grades will be reduced by 20% per day for late submissions.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's work as one's own, and is a violation of university regulations. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment in question. The most common form of plagiarism is copying text from websites or other printed sources, even when the sources are acknowledged. Another common form of plagiarism is excessive use of quotations. See [www.uOttawa.ca/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.uOttawa.ca/plagiarism.pdf) for a discussion of what plagiarism is and how to avoid it). All forms of plagiarism are violations of Memorial University academic regulations. Disciplinary actions are outlined in the University Calendar.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

International Students: Memorial University provides support to current and new international students: undergraduate, graduate, visiting students, exchange students, or ESL students through its International Student Advising Office (<http://www.mun.ca/isa/main/>).

Students with Disabilities: Memorial University seeks to create a welcoming learning environment for students with disabilities. Students who require physical or academic accommodations are encouraged to talk with staff at the Blundon Centre to facilitate full participation in this and other courses (<http://www.mun.ca/blundon/about/index.php>).

Departmental and other Campus Support: For help associated with this course contact the instructor or TA as soon as the question or problem is recognized. It is always better to ask!

Students majoring in Geography are encouraged to meet with their appointed advisors to discuss their program plans. Students contemplating geography as a major or a minor are encouraged to contact the Head of Department (Dr. Charles Mather). For more information on the Department and Departmental activities go to [www.mun.ca/geog](http://www.mun.ca/geog). For student-related activities contact Memorial University Geography Society (MUGS) through SN2026.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule and/or associated readings may be changed during the semester. All changes will be announced in class and posted on the course website.

Date	Topic	Required Readings	Assignments, Activities, Deadlines
<b>Part One: Conceptual Foundations of Economic Geography</b>			
Sep 5	Introduction to the course		
Sep 9	Theories and concepts in economics and economic geography	Chapter 1 & 2	
Sep 10	Theories and concepts in economics and economic geography	Chapter 1 & 2	
Sep 12	Capitalism and uneven economic growth	Chapter 3	
Sep 16	Beyond GDP: measures and indicators of the economy	Canadian Index of Wellbeing. (2011). How are Canadians Really Doing? Highlights: Canadian Index of Wellbeing 1.0. p. 1-16	Journal submission #1 due
Sep 17	Sustainable development	Kates R., T. Parris, and A. Leiserowitz. (2005). What is sustainable development? Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development	
Sep 19	Sustainable development		
Sep 23	Globalization	Yeung, H. "Globalization" in Rogers and Viles The Student's Companion to Geography (2nd Edition) & Dicken, P. (2007). Global Shift	
<b>Part Two: Components of Economic Geography and their Interactions</b>			
Sep 24	The state: still relevant?	Chapter 4	
Sep 26	The state: still relevant?	Chapter 4	
Sep 30	Nature in the economy	Chapter 5	Journal submission #2 due
Oct 1	Who owns nature?	Chapter 5	

Date	Topic	Required Readings	Assignments, Activities, Deadlines
Oct 3	The natural environment and globalization	Najam, A., D. Runnalls, and M. Halle (2007). Environment and Globalization: Five Propositions.	Term Research Project Part A due
Oct 7	Library instruction class		
Oct 8	Review		
Oct 10	Mid-term		Mid-term exam
Oct 14-15	Fall break – no classes		
Oct 16	Labour as an economic actor	Chapter 6	
Oct 17	Labour as an economic actor	Chapter 6	
Oct 21	The role of the financial system	Chapter 7	Journal submission #3 due
Oct 22	The role of the financial system	Chapter 7	
<b>Part Three: Geographical Organization of Economic Relationships</b>			
Oct 24	Commodity chains	Chapter 8	
Oct 28	Technology and innovation	Chapter 9	
Oct 29	The transnational corporation	Chapter 10	
Oct 31	The transnational corporation	Chapter 10	
Nov 4	Citizens and civil society		Journal submission #4 due
Nov 5	Geographies of retailing	Chapter 11	
Nov 7	Clusters and agglomeration	Chapter 12	
Nov 11	Remembrance Day	No class	
Nov 12	Gendered economy	Chapter 13	
Nov 14	Ethnic economies	Chapter 14	
Nov 18	Consumption culture and processes	Chapter 15	Journal submission #5 due
Nov 19	Catch up day		
<b>Part Four: Introduction to Development Geography and Alternative Economic Geographies</b>			
Nov 21	Development geography	Lawson, V. Making Development Geography p. 13-26, 51-67	

Date	Topic	Required Readings	Assignments, Activities, Deadlines
Nov 25	Class presentations		Term project Part B presentations
Nov 26	Class presentations		Term project Part B presentations
Nov 28	Class presentations		Term project Part B presentations
Dec 2	Alternative economic geographies	Review of related concepts from earlier course materials	
Dec 3	Course summary and review		Term project Part C paper submission due