

University of Maryland • Department of Geographical Sciences
Economic Geography Syllabus
GEOG 332 • Fall 2014

Instructor Information

Professor Julie Silva
Department of Geographical Sciences
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Teaching Assistant Information

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Course Information

Lecture	Tuesday & Thursday	4:00 – 4:50 (LEF 2205)
Discussion: 101	Wednesday	9:00 – 9:50 (LEF 1220)
Discussion: 102	Wednesday	10:00 – 10:50 (LEF 1220)
Discussion: 103	Friday	9:00 – 9:50 (SQH 1107)
Discussion: 104	Friday	10:00 – 10:50 (SQH 1101)

Important Note: This syllabus is subject to change in response to unforeseen events (e.g. hurricane) at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified should this syllabus change.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to economic geography. The course explores processes driving spatial patterns of economic activity at the global, national, regional, and local scales. Topic areas include economic globalization, spatial distribution of industrial sectors, multinational corporations, international trade, regional economic development, and illegal economic activities. The course looks at the development of the global marketplace in both the developed and the developing world. A lecture and discussion format is used in this class.

Course Learning Objectives

It is expected that a student completing this class will be able to:

1. Recognize the significance of geographic concepts for understanding socio-economic processes and outcomes.
2. Appraise the different ways in which time and space interact and constrain each other with regards to economic activities and articulate how economic processes can be broken down into changes over time and variations across space.
3. Assess how society and economic actors organize themselves in space, the factors driving these complex spatial patterns, and the implications these spatial configurations have for the socio-economic well-being of affected groups and societies.
4. Appreciate the complexity of economic development processes taking place across the world and how these are influenced by space.
5. Relate course content to current economic, social, and political events, and identify some of the geographical trends in economic processes and likely outcomes for societies.

Required Course Textbooks

Dicken, Peter. 2011. *Global Shift* 6th Edition. Oxford: Blackwell.

Rivoli, P. 2009. *The travels of a T-shirt in the global economy*, 2nd Ed. NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Fishman, Charles. 2006. *The Walmart Effect: How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works—and How it's Transforming the American Economy*. New York: Penguin Books.

Bales, K. 2012. *Disposable people: New slavery in the global economy. Updated Edition*. CA: University of California Press.

General Requirements

Requirements for this course include attendance and participation in class and discussion, quizzes, a short paper, a midterm exam, and a final exam. Course readings will come from the class textbooks. Lectures will also include information not included in the readings, so it is important to attend class and discussion. The exams and quizzes will be based on all material presented in the lectures and the required readings.

For a medically necessitated absence from a single lecture and/or discussion students may submit a self-signed note to their instructor. Such documentation shall be honored as an excused absence unless the absence coincides with a Major Scheduled Grading Event. Any student who wishes to be excused for an absence from a single lecture and/or discussion due to a medically necessitated absence shall: (1) Make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness prior to the class; and, (2) Upon returning to class, present their instructor with a self-signed note attesting to the date of their illness. This note must be submitted to the instructor as soon as the student returns to class following an absence. For example, if a student misses a Tuesday class, then the note must be submitted to the instructor on the following Thursday class. Each note must also contain an acknowledgment by the student that the information provided is true and correct. Providing false information to University officials is prohibited under Part 9 (h) of the Code of Student Conduct (V-1.00(B) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT) and may result in disciplinary action.

Students who experience more than two non-consecutive medically necessitated absences, a prolonged absence(s) of consecutive lectures and/or discussions, or an illness during a Major Scheduled Grading Event (communicated as such in the course syllabus by the class instructor) shall be required to provide written documentation of the illness from the Health Center or from an outside health care provider. In cases where written verification is provided, the Health Center or outside health care provider shall verify dates of treatment and indicate the time frame that the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. No diagnostic information shall be given. More information on the University's policy on medically necessitated absences from class can be found at <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/v100g.html>.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the use of another person's work as if it was your own. For more technical definitions of plagiarism see <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/for-students/advising/academic-integrity-honor-pledge-and-legal-aid-.aspx>. If I believe that there has been plagiarism on an assignment, I will inform you of my determination and you will receive a zero for the assignment. Cases will be referred to the Student Conduct Office. Remember that on each assignment you must write and sign the honor pledge. "I have neither given nor received any unauthorized help on this assignment."

University Rule on Completion of Work

The University requires that all work must be completed in order for you to pass the course. This includes active participation in discussion section activities.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have disabilities, learning or otherwise, you should visit the Disability Support Office to fill out appropriate forms that will tell me what accommodations to make. These may include testing formats, class participation difficulties, and paper writing. I will make every effort to accommodate students who are

registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for Fall 2013. This form must be presented to me no later than October 1, 2014. If you need accommodation for the in-class quizzes, I will need documentation by September 16, 2014. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by DSS.

Classroom Etiquette

Cell phones (including text messaging) cannot be used while you are in the classroom. All music playing devices must be turned off and earphones must be removed during class. Computers are not to be used for non class-related purposes during class time. If it becomes obvious that you are using your phone or your computer for non class-related purposes, you will be asked to shut it off and put it away. Failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the class.

Honor Code

The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code administered by the Student Honor Council (<http://www.bsos.umd.edu/for-students/advising/academic-integrity-honor-pledge-and-legal-aid-.aspx>).

Unless you are specifically advised to the contrary, the Pledge statement should be handwritten and signed on the front cover of all papers, projects, or other academic assignments submitted for evaluation in this course. Students who fail to write and sign the Pledge will be asked to confer with the instructor.

CourseEvalUM

Your participation in the evaluation of courses through CourseEvalUM is a responsibility you hold as a student member of our academic community. Your feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching and learning at the University as well as to the tenure and promotion process. I will announce when the CourseEvalUM will be open for you to complete your evaluations for fall semester courses. Please go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete your evaluations. By completing all of your evaluations each semester, you will have the privilege of accessing online, at Testudo, the evaluation reports for the thousands of courses for which 70% or more students submitted their evaluations.

Grading Scale

All assignments will be given a numerical grade on a 100-point scale. At the end of the semester, your overall numerical grade will be calculated, based on your grades for and the relative weights of the assignments, and then converted to a letter grade using the following scale.

Numerical grade (n)	Letter Grade
$93 \leq n \leq 100$	A
$90 \leq n < 93$	A-
$86 \leq n < 90$	B+
$83 \leq n < 86$	B
$80 \leq n < 83$	B-
$76 \leq n < 80$	C+
$73 \leq n < 76$	C
$70 \leq n < 73$	C-
$66 \leq n < 70$	D+
$63 \leq n < 66$	D
$60 \leq n < 63$	D-
$0 \leq n < 60$	F

All grades will be determined by the above method. **There will be no extra credit assignments.**

Assessment and Grades

There will be several tools used to assess student learning in this class. These may test all material included in the assigned reading and all the material covered in class, including the discussion sections. There will be no extra credit assignments.

- **Writing Assignment:** Each student will submit a paper of not more than 1,000 words (worth 30% of the final grade) that considers one or more of the assigned books. To respect students' preferences and workload, each student may choose one of three options outlined below. Students do not need to "sign up" for an option; however, each option has a due date, beyond which that option is no longer available as a choice. **Papers are due at the start of class on the day indicated on the syllabus.** Late papers will be penalized. **Papers for option 1 or option 2 will not be accepted one-week after the respective due date. If you miss the due dates for option 1 and option 2, then you must write your paper on option 3.** Students must submit one paper in order to receive a final grade for the class. See Appendix A attached at the back of the syllabus to see the grading criteria for the paper.
 - **Option 1:** React to the argument and examples of the Rivoli book. This is a reaction paper, not a summary of the content. It may be helpful to think of the following questions. What did you think about as you read the book? How well does the information presented in the book illustrate some of the concepts and themes discussed in this course? What examples best show how the author does a good job of illustrating course themes and which ones show how she may fall short? *Due: Week 6*
 - **Option 2:** Contrast the material presented in the Rivoli book with that presented in the Fishman book. This is not a summary paper of the content in each book or a comparison of similarities. You should present your opinion on which book does a better job of illustrating themes and concepts related to economic geography. Describe why the argument or the information in one book, in your opinion, has greater value in terms of illustrating key themes or concepts than the other. It may be helpful to think of the following questions. How does the material presented in each book relate to the geographic trends in global production networks discussed in class? What evidence did the authors provide to illustrate the complexity of economic processes and how are these influenced by space? What makes one book, in your opinion, more compelling than the other? *Due: Week 10*
 - **Option 3:** Synthesize the material presented in the Rivoli, Fishman, and Bales books with the lecture material presented throughout the course. This is not a summary of the books' content. You are to describe the importance of each author's arguments and how those arguments play out in the global economy. It may be helpful to think of the following questions. How does the material presented in each book fit within the structure of the global economy? Did one (or more) author(s) get their argument wrong, partially incorrect, right on the money, etc.? Which book, in your opinion, provides the best example for how the global economy actually works, and why? *Due: Week 14*

If, after receiving your graded paper and reading the comments, you wish to dispute your grade, you must submit a one-page (typed) explanation of why you feel you deserve a better grade. This explanation must identify components of your paper that make you believe you warrant a higher grade. The explanation is due one week from the date you receive your graded paper. No disputes will be accepted beyond the one-week deadline unless you can provide documentation of a medical illness. There is no guarantee that your grade will be changed. This decision will be made at the discretion of the professor after reading your written explanation and considering the evidence you present when making your case.

- **Quizzes:** There will be five short quizzes given throughout the semester. These quizzes will be based on course readings and material presented in lectures. These will take place at the beginning of the course period on the day they are given (see section 'Class Schedule and Reading' for quiz dates). Each quiz is worth 5% of your total course grade. Your lowest quiz grade of the five will be dropped. These quizzes combined will count for 20% of the course grade. **If you are late to class on a day a quiz is administered, you will receive a zero grade for that quiz.**
- **Midterm Exam:** There will be a midterm exam on October 23rd that is worth 20% of your final grade. The exam questions will be based on course readings and other lecture material. Exam questions will be heavily weighted towards topics discussed in class, so class attendance is important in order to do well

on the exam. In the event of an illness or emergency (which must be documented) a make-up exam will be given. The format of the make-up exam will be at the discretion of the instructor.

- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be worth 30% of your grade. Since the course meets at a non-standard time, the date of the exam will be announced in the middle of the semester. See the UMD final exam policy for courses that meet at non-standard times - <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/exam201108.html>. The final exam date and time will be announced in class as soon as the university releases the schedule. The final exam date and time is set by the university registrar's office and cannot be changed. **Do not make travel plans that interfere with your ability to be present on the day of the final exam.** Only in the event of an illness or emergency (which must be documented) will a make-up exam be given. As with the midterm, the exam questions will be based on course readings and on other lecture material. Exam questions will be heavily weighted towards topics discussed in class, so class attendance is important in order to do well on the exam.
- **Attendance and Class Participation:** Attendance and participation in class lectures and discussion sections are a requirement and an integral part of the work for the course. A significant portion of exam questions will come from material presented in lectures and class discussion (and may not necessarily be in the required course readings). Therefore attending class will be important in helping you do well in the course. For more on the University of Maryland's attendance policy see <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html>. The University's policy on medically necessitated absences from class can be found at <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/v100g.html>.

Summary of Course Assessment:

Assignment due dates are subject to change in the event of unforeseen class cancellation due to weather or other events at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified in the event that a Major Scheduled Grading Event must be rescheduled.

Assessment	Due Date	Value
Quiz 1 [MSGE]*	September 16	5% (only 4 highest count)
Quiz 2 [MSGE]	September 30	5% (only 4 highest count)
Quiz 3 [MSGE]	November 11	5% (only 4 highest count)
Quiz 4 [MSGE]	November 25	5% (only 4 highest count)
Quiz 5 [MSGE]	December 9	5% (only 4 highest count)
Midterm Exam [MSGE]	October 23	20%
Paper Option #1+	Week 6 – Tuesday, October 7	(30%)
Paper Option #2+	Week 10 – Tuesday, November 4	(30%)
Paper Option #3+	Week 14 – Tuesday, December 2	(30%)
Final Exam [MSGE]	TBD by the UMD Registrar mid-semester	30%

* MSGE = Major Scheduled Grading Event

+ You are only required to submit one paper to fulfill course requirements. You may not submit additional papers for extra credit. There is no extra credit in the course.

Class Schedule and Readings

Readings should be done by the date indicated. Always come to class prepared to discuss them. Readings are indicated in italics by author's last name.

Week 1

(Tu, Sept 2) **Economic Geography: A Brief Introduction**

(Th, Sept 4) **Review of syllabus & Perspectives on economic globalization** *Syllabus; Dicken, Chapter 1;*

Week 2

(Tu, Sept 9) **Economic geography of the world economy** *Dicken, Chapter 2*

(Th, Sept 11) **World trade patterns** *Dicken, Chapter 3*

Week 3

(Tu, Sept 16) **Technological change** *Dicken, Chapter 4* [Quiz 1 - Major Scheduled Grading Event]

(Th, Sept 18) **Corporations vs. the state in shaping economic activity** *Dicken, Chapter 7*

Week 4

(Tu, Sept 23) **Extractive industries** *Dicken, Chapter 8*

(Th, Sept 25) **The clothing industry** *Dicken, Chapter 10*

Week 5

(Tu, Sept 30) **Cotton and t-shirts – a case study** *Rivoli, pages 1-57 & 86-107* [Quiz 2 – Major Scheduled Grading Event]

(Th, Oct 2) **Cotton and t-shirts – a case study** *Rivoli, pages 175-215* [

Week 6 – PAPER 1 OPTION DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7th

(Tu, Oct 7) **Agro-food industries** *Dicken, Chapter 9*

(Th, Oct 9) **Alternative Food Networks and the Local Foods Movement** – Article: Watts et al. (2005) 'Making reconnections in agro-food geography: alternative systems of food provision', *Progress in Human Geography* 29: 22-40. *Note: Article will be made available on ELMS.

Week 7

(Tu, Oct 14) **Auto industries** *Dicken, Chapter 11*

(Th, Oct 16) **Business services** *Dicken, Chapter 12*

Week 8

(Tu, Oct 21) **Logistics and distribution services** *Dicken, Chapter 13*

(Th, Oct 23) **MIDTERM EXAM** *No additional readings* [Major Scheduled Grading Event]

Week 9

(Tu, Oct 28) **The Walmart Effect – a case study** *Fishman, pages 1-136*

(Th, Oct 30) **The Walmart Effect – a case study** *Fishman, pages 137-284*

Week 10 – PAPER 2 OPTION DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th

(Tu, Nov 4) **Global production networks and social justice** *Dicken, Chapter 14*

(Th, Nov 6) **Environmental impacts of globalization** *Dicken, Chapter 15*

Week 11

(Tu, Nov 11) **World poverty** *Dickens, Chapter 16* [Quiz 3 – Major Scheduled Grading Event]

(Th, Nov 13) **Uneven development** *Dickens, Chapter 16*

Week 12

(Tu, Nov 18) **Contemporary slavery – a case study** *Bales, pages 1-120*

(Th, Nov 20) **Contemporary slavery – a case study** *Bales, pages 121-231*

Week 13

(Tu, Nov 25) **Contemporary slavery – a case study** *Bales, pages 232-264* [Quiz 4 – Major Scheduled Grading Event]

(Th, Nov 27) *No Class Nov 28th - Thanksgiving Holiday*

No discussion sections this week.

Week 14 – PAPER 3 OPTION DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd

(Tu, Dec 2) **Farmworkers in America** *TBA* *Note: Reading will be made available on ELMS.

(Th, Dec 4) **The global criminal economy** *Castells Handout*

Week 15

(Tu, Dec 9) **Making the world a better place** *Dicken, Chapter 17* [Quiz 5 – Major Scheduled Grading Event]

(Th, Dec 11) **Review for Final Exam** *No additional readings*

No discussion sections this week.

FINAL EXAM [Major Scheduled Grading Event]: The date of final exam is TBD by UMD Registrar Mid-Semester.

APPENDIX A

University of Maryland, College Park
Department of Geographical Sciences
Economic Geography
GEOG 332 □□Fall 2014
Paper Grading Criteria

NAME: _____

Grading Criteria:

1. Paper offers a clearly stated thesis (20%)
 - a. Clear presentation of paper's central thesis in the introduction _____
 - b. Appropriate level of detail (thesis doesn't tackle too much or too little) _____
 - c. Introductory paragraph(s) prepares the reader for what to expect _____
2. The paper's thesis is supported with high quality arguments (60%)
 - a. Clear presentation of the arguments supporting your thesis _____
 - b. Good and appropriate evidence for the claims made in your paper _____
 - c. Evidence provided in the paper draws from the book or book(s) being appraised _____
 - d. The paper shows the writer has thought about the assignment and has developed his or her own ideas _____
 - e. Paper concludes with brief summary of main points _____
3. Appropriate structure (20%)
 - a. The paper focuses on the central thesis and does not jump from topic to topic _____
 - b. Abided by word length of the assignment _____
 - c. Citations used and correctly referenced _____
 - d. Turned paper in on time _____

OTHER COMMENTS _____

FINAL GRADE _____