

University of Maryland
Department of Geographical Sciences

GEOG 332: Economic Geography
Fall 2017

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor

Joshua Wayland, PhD Candidate

Email: waylandj@umd.edu

Office: LEF 2134

Office hours: Mon./Wed. 1:00-2:00pm or by apt.

Teaching Assistant

Kelly Anderson, PhD Candidate

Email: kellykja@umd.edu

Office: LEF 2138

Office hours: Wed. 1:00-3:00pm or by apt.

Course Information

Lecture	All Sections	Monday & Wednesday	4:00—4:50pm	LEF 2205
Discussion	0101	Friday	9:00—9:50pm	JMZ 1124
Discussion	0102	Friday	12:00—12:50pm	LEF 1201
Discussion	0103	Friday	1:00—1:50pm	LEF 1201
Discussion	0104	Friday	10:00—10:50am	LEF 1222

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the field of 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, transnational 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 Communications

Course announcements will be made through the CANVAS/ELMS system. All lectures materials and student grades will be posted on CANVAS/ELMS. If changes to the syllabus are required in response to unforeseen events, students will be notified via CANVAS/ELMS. Students can communicate with the instructor through CANVAS/ELMS, via email, or in person during office hours.

Required Books

This is a reading intensive course. There are four books that students will read by the end of the course. The first book (*Global Shift* by Peter Dicken) is the textbook for the course. The other three books each discuss an issue of interest to scholars of Economic Geography. The required books are:

Dicken, Peter. 2015. *Global Shift 7th Edition*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell

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, NY: Penguin Books.

Minter, Adam. 2013. *Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion-Dollar Trash Trade*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Press.

Bales, Kevin. 2012. *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*. Updated Edition. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Assessments and grades

There are five types of graded assessments in this course: quizzes, discussion activities, a paper proposal, a term paper, and a final exam. These assessments are explained in detail below.

Quizzes: There will be six brief quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will include 10 multiple choice questions. Quizzes will take place in class and students should plan on being in class on the day quizzes are assigned. Make-up quizzes will only be allowed for students with documented excused absences. If a student must miss a quiz due to religious observance or planned activity (including athletic events), the instructor must be informed of the absence no later than September 18, 2017 in order to schedule a makeup quiz. According to University policy, medical absences on a quiz day must be documented with a note from a medical professional (for more information on the University attendance policy, see <https://president.umd.edu/sites/president.umd.edu/files/files/documents/policies/V-100G.pdf>). The lowest quiz grade will be dropped, so only the top five quiz grades will count toward a student's final grade. Together, the quizzes will be worth 25% of the final grade.

Discussion Activities: Students are expected to attend discussion sessions with their Teaching Assistant (TA). Discussion sessions will include structured class and group activities, which may require preparation outside of class. The TA will take attendance for ten discussion sessions throughout the semester (see course schedule below). Attendance at these discussion sessions will count for 3 points each, for a total of 15% of the final grade. If a student must miss a discussion session due to religious observance or planned activity (including athletic events), the TA must be informed no later than September 18, 2017 to receive an excused absence. Medical absences must be documented with a self-signed note (one time per semester) or with a note from a medical professional, as required by University policy.

Paper Proposal: Each student will submit a paper proposal in preparation for the term paper. The paper proposal should include a thesis statement and a detailed outline of the term paper. It should be approximately 1 page in length. The paper proposal will be graded out of 20 points and is worth 10% of the final grade. The paper proposal should be submitted as a word document (.doc or .docx) file through

CANVAS/ELMS no later than **Friday October 13 at 11:59pm**. Students are strongly encouraged to submit their paper well in advance of the due date to avoid any technical issues with submission. Late assignments will receive an automatic penalty of two points per day. For more information on the paper proposal, see Appendix A.

Term Paper: Each student will submit a final paper on the topic below. The paper must be between 1,000 and 2,000 words in length (between approximately 4 and 8 pages, double spaced). The term paper will be graded out of 50 points and is worth 25% of the final grade. The term paper should be submitted as a word document (.doc or .docx) file through CANVAS/ELMS no later than **Friday November 10 at 11:59pm**. Students are strongly encouraged to submit their paper well in advance of the due date to avoid any technical issues with submission. Late assignments will receive an automatic penalty of two points per day. For more information about the term paper, see Appendix B and Appendix C.

Paper topic: The paper should answer the question, “Does geography still matter in the global economy?” There is no ‘correct’ answer to this question. Students will be graded on their ability to make a convincing argument based on the material covered in the lectures and readings. The paper should cite specific examples from both *The Wal-Mart Effect* and *Junkyard Planet*.

Final Exam: Students will take a final exam on a date to be scheduled by the University and announced mid-semester. The final exam will include multiple choice and short answer questions and will cover material from the entire course (i.e. it is a cumulative exam). The final exam will be graded out of 50 points and will be worth 25% of the final grade.

Summary of graded assignments: The table below summarizes the graded assignments in the course and their relative contribution to the student’s final numerical grade.

Component	Points	Percent of final grade
Quizzes	50 points (only highest 5 grades count)	25% of final grade
Discussion Activities	30 points (10 activities x 3 points each)	15% of final grade
Paper Proposal	20 points	10% of final grade
Paper	50 points	25% of final grade
Final Exam	50 points	25% of final grade
Total	200 points	100% of final grade

Grading scale: All assignments will be given a numerical grade. At the end of the semester, the student’s overall numerical grade will be calculated, based on the grades for and the relative weights of the assignments. The final numerical grade will be converted into a letter grade using the scale below.

Numerical Grade (n)	Final 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-
$0 < n < 60$	F

Class Schedule

The course schedule is summarized below. Students will be notified of any changes via CANVAS/ELMS.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1			
Mon. Aug. 28	Introduction	Course syllabus	
Wed. Aug 30	Economic globalization	Chapter 1 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Fri. Sept. 1	No discussion session		
Week 2			
Mon. Sept. 4	<i>No class</i>		
Wed. Sept. 6	Processes of globalization	Chapter 2 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Fri. Sept. 8	Discussion Activity 1		
Week 3			
Mon. Sept. 11	Global Production Networks	Chapter 3 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Wed. Sept. 13	Technological change	Chapter 4 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Fri. Sept. 15	Discussion Activity 2		
Week 4			
Mon. Sept. 18	Transnational Corporations	Chapter 5 in <i>Global Shift</i>	Quiz 1
Wed. Sept. 20	States	Chapter 6 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Fri. Sept. 22	Discussion Activity 3		
Week 5			
Mon. Sept. 25	States vs. Corporations	Chapter 7 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Wed. Sept. 27	Transportation Industry	None	
Fri. Sept. 29	Optional review session		
Week 6			
Mon. Oct. 2	Retail Industry I	<i>The Wal-Mart Effect</i>	Quiz 2
Wed. Oct. 4	Retail Industry II	<i>The Wal-Mart Effect</i>	
Fri. Oct. 6	Discussion Activity 4		
Week 7			
Mon. Oct. 9	Recycling Industry I	<i>Junkyard Planet</i>	
Wed. Oct. 11	Recycling Industry II	<i>Junkyard Planet</i>	
Fri. Oct. 13	Discussion Activity 5		Paper Proposal Due
Week 8			
Mon. Oct. 16	Extractive Industry	Chapter 12 in <i>Global Shift</i>	Quiz 3
Wed. Oct. 18	Agro-Food Industry	Chapter 13 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Fri. Oct. 20	Discussion Activity 6		
Week 9			
Mon. Oct. 23	Light Manufacturing Industry	Chapter 14 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Wed. Oct. 25	Heavy Manufacturing Industry	Chapter 15 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Fri. Oct. 27	Discussion Activity 7		
Week 10			

Mon. Oct. 30	Advanced Business Services	Chapter 16 in <i>Global Shift</i>	Quiz 4
Wed. Nov. 1	Logistics	Chapter 17 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Fri. Nov. 3	Discussion Activity 8		
Week 11			
Mon. Nov. 6	Globalization and Development I	Chapter 8 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Wed. Nov. 8	Globalization and Development II	Chapter 10 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Fri. Nov. 10	Optional review session		Term Paper Due
Week 12			
Mon. Nov. 13	Modern-Day Slavery I	<i>Disposable People</i>	Quiz 5
Wed. Nov. 15	Modern-Day Slavery II	<i>Disposable People</i>	
Fri. Nov. 17	Discussion Activity 9		
Week 13			
Mon. Nov. 20	Globalization and Conflict	None	
Wed. Nov. 22	No class		
Fri. Nov. 24	No discussion session		
Week 14			
Mon. Nov. 27	Globalization and Environment I	Chapter 9 in <i>Global Shift</i>	
Wed. Nov. 29	Globalization and Environment II	None	
Fri. Dec. 1	Discussion Activity 10		
Week 15			
Mon. Dec. 4	Regulating Globalization I	Chapter 11 in <i>Global Shift</i>	Quiz 6
Wed. Dec. 6	Regulating Globalization II	None	
Fri. Dec. 8	Optional review session		
Week 16			
Mon. Dec. 11	Review of the course	None	
Wed. Dec. 13	No class		
Fri. Dec. 15	No discussion		
FINAL EXAM TIME AND DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED MID-SEMESTER			

Additional Information

Academic integrity: Plagiarism is the use of another person’s work as if it were your own. For more technical definitions of plagiarism, see <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>. If the instructor determines that there has been plagiarism on an assignment, the student will be informed and will receive a zero for the assignment. Cases will be referred to the Student Conduct office.

Honor Code: The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code administered by the Student Honor Council. The Student Honor Council proposed and the University Senate approved an Honor Pledge. The Pledge reads, “*I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.*” Unless you are advised to the contrary, the Pledge statement should be handwritten and signed on the front cover of all 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.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: If you have disabilities, learning or otherwise, you should visit the Disability Support Service (DSS) office to fill out the appropriate forms that will tell the instructor what accommodations to make. The instructor will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the DSS office and who provide an updated DSS Accommodation form. The form must be provided to the instructor no later than two weeks after the official start of the course. The

instructor is not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide documentation reviewed by DSS.

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. The instructor will make an announcement when the course evaluation becomes available. Please complete the evaluation at www.courseevalum.umd.edu.

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APPENDIX A
PAPER PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Paper Proposal Guidelines:

The paper proposal will be worth 10% of your grade and is due on **October 13, 2017 by 11:59pm**. Your paper proposal should have four (4) components:

1. The proposal should include a clear thesis statement answering the topic question. A thesis statement is an argumentative statement that succinctly explains what your position is and the reasons why. For example, if you were writing a paper about the best flavor of ice cream, you might write, “In this paper, I will argue that mint chocolate chip is the best ice cream flavor because it is minty, contains chocolate, and has a pleasing color.” You would then go on to explain each of the reasons you present in the body of the paper.
2. The proposal should include a ‘road map’ section describing the three (or more) arguments you will make in the paper. A ‘road map’ in a paper about ice cream flavors might look like this: “First, I will discuss the importance of the mint flavor in mint chocolate chip. Second, I will show that the presence of chocolate is critical. Finally, I will explain why the green color of mint chocolate chip ice cream makes it a true pleasure for all of the senses.”
3. The proposal should identify at least three specific examples from the books *Junkyard Planet* and *The Wal-Mart Effect* that you will discuss to back up your thesis statement. For each example, you should write a sentence to summarize the example and explain why it supports your thesis statement. You can cite specific page numbers for the examples if you want.
4. The proposal should include a brief concluding sentence or sentences restating your thesis statement and main arguments.

Please use the following format to structure your paper proposal:

- I. Thesis Statement (5 points)**
 - a. Present your thesis statement in full sentence(s)
- II. Introductory ‘Road Map’ section (5 points)**
 - a. Present your ‘road map’ in full sentences
- III. Major Points in Support of Thesis Statement (5 points)**
 - a. Summarize your first point in a complete sentence
 - b. Summarize your second point in a complete sentence
 - c. Summarize your third point in a complete sentence
- IV. Conclusion (5 points)**
 - a. Summarize your argument again in a complete sentence

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**APPENDIX B
FINAL PAPER INSTRUCTIONS**

Your final assignment is to write a paper to demonstrate what they have learned during the course. The paper is worth 25% of the final grade and is due on **November 10, 2017 by 11:59pm**.

Topic: The topic question for the paper is, “does geography still matter in the global economy?” In other words, are space and place still relevant to how goods and services are produced and consumed? Do geographical features affect industries, and how? What about states and borders? The physical environment? Or, are we so interconnected today that it doesn’t really matter anymore where corporations locate and do business? All of these questions are debatable. There is no “right” answer for the purpose of this course. Your paper will be graded on how well you make your argument, based on the material from the course.

Requirements: The final paper must be at least 1,000 words in length and cannot be more than 2,000 words. The paper must have a clear *thesis statement*. A thesis statement is an argumentative statement that take a position or answers a question. The paper must support the thesis statement with at least *three* specific examples from the assigned readings. At a minimum, the paper *must* cite examples from *The Wal-Mart Effect* and *Junkyard Planet*. Students may also cite other sources, if they choose. Appropriate in-text citations must be used. Any citation style (such as APA, MLA, or Chicago style) is acceptable, but it must be used *consistently* throughout the paper.

Format: A good paper should have an introductory paragraph, body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph. The introduction should include your thesis statement and a ‘road map’ for your paper, which is just a few sentences outlining the arguments you will make and the examples you will discuss. You should include *at least* two full body paragraphs for each example, one to summarize the example and one to relate the example back to your thesis statement. You *must* relate each example back to your thesis statement in order to have a convincing argument! Your conclusion should restate your thesis summarize (again) the arguments that you made.

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APPENDIX C
FINAL PAPER GRADING RUBRIC

Student name: _____

Grading criteria:

1. Paper includes a clearly stated thesis (20%)
 - a. Clear presentation of paper's central thesis in the introduction _____
 - b. Appropriate level of detail in the thesis (thesis doesn't tackle too little or too much) _____
 - 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 being appraised _____
 - d. The paper demonstrates the students own original ideas _____
3. Appropriate structure (20%)
 - a. The paper focuses on the central thesis and does not jump from topic to topic _____
 - b. The paper abides by the word length of the assignment _____
 - c. The paper concludes with a brief summary of main points _____
 - d. In-text citations are used consistently and correctly _____

Other comments: _____

Final grade: _____