FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL & SOCIOCULTURAL STUDIES

GEO 3502: ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

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About the Course
In this course we explore how the abstraction that we term “the economy” is grounded in the material world. Economic Geography focuses on the ways in which economic activities are organized, how they impact regions, and how they change over time. We are concerned with understanding processes and impacts of economic change at multiple geographic scales, including restructuring at the global level, processes of regional transformation, and the ways in which changing spatial divisions of labor transform places and impact households and individuals. In particular, we examine what is old and what is new about economic globalization as we experience it and how this matters to people, places and environments. We use a political economy approach, meaning that we concentrate on the relationship among economic processes, political institutions, and sociocultural structures. First, we will analyze the spatial dynamics of the global economy, focusing on the changing geography of production, industrial location, trade, and investment. Next we consider who ‘wins’ and who ‘loses’ through processes of uneven development in the global economy. Finally we examine how local and national policies link individuals and communities to regional and global economies, using a series of case studies to illustrate.

Learning Goals
We will examine how the world economy transformed from an international to a global system and what that means for nation-states, communities, individuals, corporations, and the environment.

Learning Outcomes
Students will demonstrate awareness of global interconnectedness, beyond merely recognizing increasing ease of communication, to understanding how global production networks create linkages among disparate places and people and change the scale at which political-economic and sociocultural processes operate.

Students will gain perspective of the increasing complexity of the global economic map by tracing the intricate interconnections of production, consumption and distribution networks.

Students will demonstrate engagement through case studies that link south Florida to the global economy, by uncovering, through their own original research, how processes of globalization work.

Grading and Requirements
2 Exams @ 30% each 60%
Economic Geography Project 30%
Participation/Assignments 10%
100
**Required Text**

I will also assign readings on the Global Shift companion website (www.guilford.com/dickenGS7) and articles available either on Blackboard OR on-line (through the FIU library or another website).

**A Note on Requirements**
All of the assigned readings are mandatory. This includes textbook chapters, website readings and articles assigned throughout the semester. You are responsible for all information, materials, and instructions disseminated during the class period. Lectures, films, and readings are complementary but not identical and the exams will be based on all sources. Therefore, attendance is essential to doing well in this class. At various times throughout the semester we will take attendance.

**Important Dates (Note: Dates CAN change so make sure you stay informed)**
- First Exam: October 3
- Second Exam: November 21
- Team assignment: Topic Statement & Significance: October 12
- Individual assignment: Bibliography & Research Questions: October 24
- Project: Economic Geography Portfolio: November 30
- Project: Economic Geography Final Presentations: November 28 and 30

**Your Research Assignment: The Economic Geography Project**
You will form teams of 2 to 3 students to "do" economic geography. We will spend time in class discussing possible topics. Each team will select an economic sector to research. You will prepare and present a case study that links the "local"—that is, the south Florida region—to the global economy. Chapters 12 through 17 in your textbook provide background for six diverse economic sectors, which can give you ideas about topics that can be linked to the south Florida region. Another source for inspiration is the WLRN Radio series The Sunshine Economy, which can be accessed at [http://wlrn.org/programs/sunshine-economy](http://wlrn.org/programs/sunshine-economy). In addition, you could link an aspect of global environmental change to the regional economy, such as sea level rise impacts or changing disease vectors (think Zika!). You will find extensive resources and expertise on both topics at FIU.

The final product will be a collectively conceptualized project including individually written sections of at least 8 pages per student accompanied by any illustrations, maps, and/or tables that help to illuminate the topic. The project should engage with and demonstrate understanding of the language and concepts of economic geography. Use ideas and terminology from this class in your analysis of your topic.

Although you are working in groups, the project is structured so that your grade is based on your work, that is, the portion of the project for which you are responsible. By the fourth week of the semester, you should have identified a research topic. We will spend time in class discussing possible topics.

“Doing” economic geography requires that you use a variety of research methods and data sources, including secondary sources such as newspapers, journal articles, and books, and primary sources such as government documents, published statistics, and even visits to your site of study and/or interviews with people involved with the sector you are studying.
**Project Timeline:**

**Week 4:** identify research topic and form teams

**Week 7:** Each student meets with Professor Hollander to discuss their final project topic. Appointments can be scheduled as a team or individually.

**Week 9:** Team assignment: one page brief explaining the significance of the project topic and how it connects Miami to the global economy. Due Wednesday, October 12.

**Week 10:** Individual assignment: Working Bibliography & Research Questions are due. At the beginning of class on October 24, EACH team member will hand in a list of research questions and a bibliography for their portion of the project. The list of research materials is a “working bibliography”—that is, a bibliography in progress. EACH bibliography MUST list at LEAST one scholarly book and TWO scholarly articles (from peer-reviewed journals) and TWO popular articles (newspaper or magazine).

**Week 15:** Every team will present the highlights of their research, with each team member taking part in the presentation of the Economic Geography Projects. The written version of the Final Project is due in class November 30. Each team will hand in a multipart report that consists of individually written sections as well as an introduction written as a team.

**Project Evaluation**

1. Organization: Does the project demonstrate knowledge of processes operating at multiple scales?
2. Significance: Does the project reveal aspects of the connections between local, regional, national and global scales that are unique and original?
3. Research: Is the primary and secondary research adequate to the topic, demonstrating skilled use of the FIU library resources and initiative beyond the classroom?

**Policy on Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is cheating. Don’t do it. The disciplinary action that will be taken in the case of plagiarism is explained in the section on “Academic Misconduct” in the Student Handbook. If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, here is a helpful source: [http://libguides.fiu.edu/plagiarism](http://libguides.fiu.edu/plagiarism)

**Fall 2016 Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1:** August 22/24: Introduction to Economic Geography/Globalization
READ: Dicken, Preface, Chapter 1 & Applied Case Study 1 @ [www.guilford.com/dickenGS7](http://www.guilford.com/dickenGS7)

**Week 2:** August 29/31: Geographic Shifts
READ: Dicken, Chapter 2.

**Week 3:** September 7: Webs & Networks
READ: Dicken, Chapter 3 & Applied Case Study 3 (Oxfam) @ [www.guilford.com/dickenGS7](http://www.guilford.com/dickenGS7)
NOTE: September 5 is Labor Day Holiday; the University is closed so NO CLASS!!
Week 4: September 12/14: Technology and Social Change
READ: Dicken, Chapter 4 & articles as assigned & Applied Case Study 4 (Indymedia) @ www.guilford.com/dickenGS7

Week 5: September 19/21: The Transnational Corporation/The State
READ: Dicken, Chapters 5 & 6 & articles as assigned & Applied Case Study 6 (Chinese diaspora) @ www.guilford.com/dickenGS7

Week 6: September 26/28: TNCs & States/Review
READ: Dicken, Chapter 7 & articles as assigned & Applied Case Study 7 (Deutsche Bank) @ www.guilford.com/dickenGS7

Week 7: October 3/5: EXAM ONE/Capturing Value
READ: Dicken, Chapter 8 & Applied Case Study 8 (McDonalds) @ www.guilford.com/dickenGS7

Week 8: October 10/12: Destroying Value/Where you live matters!
READ: Dicken, Chapters 9 & 10 & Applied Case Studies 9 & 10 @ www.guilford.com/dickenGS7

Week 9: October 17/19: Global Governance/ Extractive Industries
READ: Dicken, Chapter 11& 12, articles as assigned, and Applied Case Studies 11 (microfinance) & 12 (Shell) @ www.guilford.com/dickenGS7

Week 10: October 24/26 Fashion and Clothing
READ: Dicken, Chapter 14 and articles as assigned and Applied Case Study 14 (Lesotho) @ www.guilford.com/dickenGS7

Week 11: October 31/November 2: Automobile Industry
READ: Dicken, Chapter 15 and articles as assigned and Applied Case Study 15 (General Motors) @ www.guilford.com/dickenGS7

Week 12: November 7/9: Advanced Business Services
READ: Dicken, Chapters 16 and articles as assigned and Applied Case Study 16 (Global Cities) @ www.guilford.com/dickenGS7

Week 13: November 14/16: Comparing Sectors/Review

Week 14: November 21/23: EXAM TWO/Final Project Session

Week 15: November 28/30: FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Week 16: December 5/7 TBA