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. Then we examine how local and national policies link individuals and communities to regional and global economies, using a series of case studies to illustrate. Finally we consider who ‘wins’ and who ‘loses’ through processes of uneven development in the global economy.

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
3 Exams @ 22% each 66%
Economic Geography Project 34%
100
**Required Text**

In addition I will assign readings that will be available either on Moodle OR on-line (through the FIU library or another website).

**A Note on Requirements**
All of the assigned readings are mandatory. 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 I will take attendance at the beginning of class.

**Important Dates (Note: Dates CAN change so make sure you stay informed)**

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<td>First Exam</td>
<td>September 23</td>
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<td>Second Exam</td>
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<td>Third Exam</td>
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<td>Due: Bibliography &amp; Research Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due: Economic Geography Project Portfolio</td>
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**A Note on the Assignment: Economic Geography Projects**
You will form small groups—of approximately four students each—to "do" economic geography. Each group 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. 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 charts that help to illuminate the topic. The project should engage with and demonstrate understanding of the language and concepts of economic geography; that is, you should employ ideas and terminology from this class.

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 fifth week of the semester, you should have identified a research topic. We will spend time in class discussing possible topics and we will attend several library sessions to develop research strategies.

“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, possibly, visits to your site of study and/or interviews with people involved with the sector you are studying.

We undertake this research project in collaboration with Stephanie Brenenson, Coordinator of Library Instruction, who has developed a set of instruction modules for this economic geography project, which she will present on dates specified below. As you go about enhancing your research skills, she will provide you with feedback on your search strategies. She has also developed for a library guide for this course, which you can access at the following link:

[http://libguides.fiu.edu.ezproxy.fiu.edu/content.php?pid=197026](http://libguides.fiu.edu.ezproxy.fiu.edu/content.php?pid=197026)
**Project Timeline:**

Week 5: identify research topic and form groups

Week 9: Working Bibliography is due. At the beginning of class on November 4, **EACH** member of the group will hand in—as an individual—a typed list of the research materials that they are using for their portion of the project. This is a “working bibliography”—that is, a bibliography in progress. **EACH** bibliography MUST list at LEAST one scholarly book and TWO scholarly articles and TWO popular articles (newspaper or magazine).

Week 15: Final Project due in class December 2.

Weeks 15 and 16: Every group will present the highlights of their research. Each member of the group will take part in the presentation of the Economic Geography Projects.

**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, check out the FIU library website: http://library.fiu.edu/assistance/plagiarism.

**Fall 2011 Weekly Schedule**

Week 1: August 22/24/26: Introduction to Economic Geography/Globalization
READ: Dicken, Introduction: Chapter 1

Week 2: August 29/31/September 2: Geographic dynamics of change
READ: Dicken, Part I and II: Chapters 2 & 3

Week 3: September 7/9: Technology and Social Change
READ: Dicken, Part II, Chapter 4
NOTE: Monday, September 5 is Labor Day, NO CLASS

Week 4: September 12/14/16: The Transnational Corporation
READ: Dicken, Part II, Chapter 5

Week 5: September 19/21/23: Review/EXAM 1
READ: Dicken, Chapter 5 & articles as assigned

Week 6: September 26/28/30: The State & the TNC
READ: Dicken, Chapters 6 & 7 & articles as assigned
Week 7: October 3/5/7: Extractive Industries
READ: Dicken, Part III, Chapter 8

Week 8: October 10/12/14: Fashion & Clothing
READ: Dicken, Part III, Chapter 10 and articles as assigned
NOTE: Oct. 10 & 12, Class meets in GL 280 for a library session

Week 9: October 17/19/21: Automobile Industry
READ: Dicken, Part III, Chapter 11 and articles as assigned

Week 10: October 24/26/28: Review/Exam 2/Finance

Week 11: October 31/November 2/4: Finance and Business Services/Miami as a World City
READ: Dicken, Part III, Chapter 12 and articles as assigned

Week 12: November 7/9: Winning & Losing in the Global Economy
READ: Dicken, Part 4, Chapters 14 & 15 and articles as assigned
NOTE: Wednesday, November 9, Class meets in GL 280 for a library session AND Friday, November 11 is Veteran’s Day, NO CLASS

Week 13: November 14/16/18: Economic Geography of Suburbia/Review
READ: Dicken, Part 4, Chapters 16 & 17

Week 14: November 21/23: Exam Three/Group project working day
NOTE: Friday, November 25 is Thanksgiving Break, NO CLASS

Week 15: November 28/30/December 2: Final Project Presentations (Attendance will be taken!)

Week 16: Finals Week: Final Project Presentations (Attendance will be taken!)