

DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE

GEOG 3404: GEOGRAPHIES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WINTER 2023 [0.5 credit]

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES,
CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Pablo Mendez

Lecture times: Wednesdays, 11:35am – 2:25pm

Office hours: By appointment (pablo.mendez@carleton.ca)

Location: Southam Hall, room 517

Office: B-441, Loeb Building

Course description

Geographers describe economic development as an uneven geographical process. That's another way of saying that wealth and economic activity grow more rapidly in some places than others, and this difference can exist even between neighbouring places (think for example of the differences between Europe and Africa or Mexico and the United States). A geographical conceptualization of economic development also considers the fact that affluent places can lose their economic vibrancy over time while other places become increasingly successful. For example, the American city of Detroit, Michigan (an economic powerhouse until the 1960s) experienced ruinous decline at the same time as the economy of California's Silicon Valley became highly dynamic and prosperous.

GEOG 3404 aims to provide students with a foundational understanding of economic development in capitalist societies from a geographic point of view. Given the evolving spatial differences that characterize the economic fortune of places, adopting a geographical perspective is critical if we are to make sense of this concept and how the processes it encompasses unfold across the planet over time. Rather than thinking economic development narrowly as something that impoverished countries lack or try to achieve, we will approach its conceptualization more comprehensively by reframing it as the specific patterning of economic activity that occurs across geographic space and at a variety of scales. Such an approach will enable us to learn about the linkages that shape the ebbs and flows of economic life within and between neighbourhoods, cities, nations, or regions throughout the capitalist world.

Prerequisites

GEOG 2200 or permission of the Department.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will: 1) gain a geographic understanding of the concept of uneven economic development in capitalist societies; 2) become familiar with the key elements and actors associated with the processes this concept describes; 3) develop the ability to recognize and explain how economic development creates linkages (or draws on existing connections) between different places at multiple spatio-temporal scales; 4) learn about and acquire the ability to critically discuss some of the most important current issues and controversies related to this foundational concept in economic geography.

Course materials

There are no required textbooks to purchase for this course. All required reading materials will be available free of charge, either online or through [Ares](#) (Carleton's electronic reserve system).

The syllabus, additional materials, and information about the course will be posted on the Brightspace Course Management System. You must access your Brightspace account by going to:

<https://brightspace.carleton.ca/>

Please check Brightspace before coming to class. Any changes to course content will be announced on Brightspace and in lecture.

Evaluation

Group Presentation and Weekly Briefs	15%
Midterm Exams	30%
Term Paper	30%
Take-Home Final Exam	25%

Group presentation: You are required to prepare and deliver one 10-minute group presentation in class, on one of the topics that will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the term. It will be worth 10 percent of your course grade. Presentations will take place throughout the term. The required group size is two students per group. More details about the presentation requirements will be provided in lecture and posted on Brightspace.

Weekly briefs: Every week you will submit on Brightspace a brief on the student presentations that took place in class that day. The briefs will be due by midnight that day. They will be worth 5 percent of your course grade. More details about the content of these briefs will be provided in lecture and posted on Brightspace.

Online midterm exams: You will write two online midterm exams during class time (dates to be announced). You may write the exams from anywhere with a reliable WiFi connection. Lecture will be cancelled on those days. Each midterm will be worth 15 percent of your course grade, and may include multiple choice, fill in the blanks, and/or essay questions relating to the instructor's lectures. The second midterm is not cumulative.

Term paper: You will research and write a term paper, and will have the option to write it on the same topic as your presentation or to choose a different topic from the list of presentation topics I will provide. Even though you will be working together with a classmate on the presentation, you will need to research and write your term paper on your own. Proper spelling, grammar and use of APA citation format is expected. The paper is due by the end of the day on April 5. More details about the term paper will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

Take-home final exam: You will have access to the final exam on April 5. Your responses will be due on April 27. You will be allowed to consult your class notes to complete the exam. You must work alone on this exam and submit your own answers. If you are unable to meet the submission deadline due to circumstances beyond your control, you will need to apply to the Registrar's Office to defer the exam (see <https://carleton.ca/registrar/deferral/>). More details about the take-home final exam will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

Minimum standards to be in good standing:

To be considered in good standing, students must receive a D- or higher in the term paper and at least one of the in-class activities. At the discretion of the instructor, students who fail to meet this requirement may be asked to do an interview with him to demonstrate their grasp of the course material.

Grades:

In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 56-59	F = Below 50
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56	
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52	

WDN = Withdrawn from the course; ABS = Student absent from final exam; DEF = Deferred (See above); FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Retain copies of work submitted

Students are strongly advised to retain a hard copy (and electronic backup) of all work submitted and be prepared to provide it to the instructor in the event of loss for any reason.

Communication with the instructor

As you know, e-mail is excellent for conveying simple information but not a good medium for complex communication. Feel free to email the instructor with questions and concerns about the course, readings, or assignments when you can realistically expect that your question can be answered in one or two sentences. For questions that require complex answers, please ask the instructor to schedule an online or telephone appointment with you. It is important to include the course code (GEOG 3404) and your student ID number in the subject line of all emails to the instructor, to prevent messages from being automatically redirected to the instructor's spam mailbox. Do not include any other text besides the course code and your student ID in the subject line of your message. Please be aware that you may not receive a response if you fail to follow these instructions.

Drop date

Please check the Carleton University Calendar for the last day in the term to withdraw from a course with full fee adjustment.

Instructional & Conduct Offences

Instructional offences include (among other activities): cheating, contravening examination regulations, plagiarism, submitting similar work in two or more courses without prior permission, and disrupting classes. Conduct offences apply in areas of discrimination and sexual harassment. Further information about University regulations which define and regulate these offences is presented in the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/>

Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the submission of someone else's writing/ideas/work as your own. All ideas presented which are not your own must be properly referenced. While forms of plagiarism may vary, each involves verbatim or near verbatim presentation of the writings or ideas of others' as one's own without adequately acknowledging the original source. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): copying from

a book, article or another student; downloading material or ideas from the Internet and replicating these verbatim or without citation; or otherwise submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own.

University regulations stipulate that allegations of plagiarism, cheating or any violations of examination conduct rules will be thoroughly reviewed. If the instructor suspects that a student has submitted plagiarized work, the submitted assignment will be forwarded to the Chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. If it is agreed that an instructional offence may have been committed, the case will be forwarded to the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Affairs) of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. **University procedures do not permit the instructors to discuss the allegations with you.** You will receive a request from the Associate Dean's Office to discuss this matter in person with two Associate Deans. They decide if an instructional offence has occurred, following an interview with the student, and decide what, if any, any penalties are warranted. Thus, you are advised to keep all research notes and printouts from web sites, even after you submit your paper.

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to learn how to do research and how to cite sources properly. The following web site provides advice: <http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/avoid-plagiarism>

Writing tutorial service

If you feel you need assistance in improving your writing skills, you are encouraged to get in touch with the Writing Tutorial Service (Room 229, Patterson Hall, <http://www.carleton.ca/wts/>).

Academic standing and conduct

Students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning academic standing and conduct in the *Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar*. This document can be accessed online at: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/>

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Student Life Services

Student Life Services, located in Room 501 of the Unicentre, offers a range of programs and services to assist students in adjusting to academic life, in improving their learning skills, and in making academic and career decisions.

COVID-19 directives

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.