

DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE

GEOG 3404: GEOGRAPHIES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WINTER 2025 [0.5 credit]

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES,
CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Time and location: Wednesdays, 11:35 to 14:25, room TBA

Instructor: Pablo Mendez

Office hours: By appointment

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 at pablo.mendez@carleton.ca with questions and concerns about the course, readings, or assignments when it's realistic to expect your question can be answered in one or two sentences. For questions that require complex answers, please email the instructor to schedule an appointment. 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. Please be aware that you may not receive a response if you fail to follow these instructions.

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 and at different scales (think for example of the differences between Europe and Africa or between 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

The title of the textbook will be announced in December 2024. The syllabus, additional materials, and information about the course will be posted on the Brightspace Course Management System. You must access your BS account by going to: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/>

Evaluation

Your course performance will be evaluated as follows:

Presentation & Short Essay	20%
Midterm Exams (15% each)	30%
Term Paper	40%
World Café exercise	10%

Presentation & Short Essay: You are required to research, prepare, and deliver one 10-minute group presentation in class, on one of the topics that will be provided by the instructor. Presentation dates and topics will be assigned on the second week of classes. The required group size is two students. Each group member will also be required to submit a 500- to 800-word expository essay on the topic of their presentation (you will each need to write and submit your own essay, even though you will be working on your presentation together). Essays will be due before class on presentation day. More details about the presentation and essay requirements will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

Midterm exams: The midterm exams will be delivered online on February 12 and April 2, and you are required to write them during class. There will be no lecture or presentations on those days. You may write the exams from anywhere with a reliable Wi-Fi connection. The exams will cover the lectures and the assigned readings up to the exam date. The second midterm is not cumulative. You must work alone on these exams and submit your own answers. You are not allowed to consult the textbook, your class notes, or any other materials or sources. The exams will consist primarily of essay-type questions, but they may also include some multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. More details will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

Term paper: You will research and write a 4,000-word *argumentative* term paper on a topic chosen from the list of presentation topics, either the same as your presentation or a different one. Even though you will be working together with other classmates on the presentation, you will need to research and write the term paper by yourself and submit your own work. The term paper is due by March 21. More details about the term paper will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

World Café exercise: On March 26, you will participate in an in-class discussion exercise following a [World Café](#) format. The exercise will provide you with an opportunity to review the key themes of the course with your classmates and the instructor in a structured but informal setting. You will take notes

of the discussions you participate in and use them to prepare an individual 400- to 500-word summary to be submitted by Tuesday, April 8. More details about this exercise will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

Grades:

Please note that email requests to “bump up” a grade will not receive a reply.

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 copy or electronic backup of all work submitted and be prepared to provide it to the instructor in the event of loss for any reason.

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, 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:

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Key to avoiding plagiarism is learning how to do research and 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:

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Students must contact the instructor(s) as soon as possible, and normally no later than 24 hours after the submission deadline for course deliverables. Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy and family-status related accommodation: 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 and Inclusive Communities (EIC) website.

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, [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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 is 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

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>

Student Life Services

Student Life Services, located in Room Nideyinàn 501, 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.

Student Mental Health

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. See for example <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>