

## COURSE OUTLINE

### **GEOG 3404: GEOGRAPHIES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FALL 2017 [0.5 credit]**

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Instructor:** Pablo Mendez

**Lecture times:** Fridays, 8:35am – 11:25am

**Office:** B-441, Loeb Building

**Location:** Room B-146, Loeb Building

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

#### **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 places that are in close proximity of each other (think for example of the differences between Europe and Africa or Mexico and the United States). Moreover, places that were once economically rich and dynamic can lose their edge over time, while others 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 prosperous and dynamic. Given these spatial differences in economic fortunes, adopting a geographical perspective is indispensable if we are to make sense of economic development and how it unfolds across the planet over time.

This course aims to provide students with a foundational understanding of economic development from a geographic point of view. Rather than thinking of economic development narrowly as something that poor countries lack or try to achieve, we will approach it more comprehensively as specific patterning of economic activity across geographic space and observable 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 in neighbourhoods, cities, nations, or regions around the world – from the richest to the poorest. By the end of the term, students will be able to understand and critically discuss many of the most important current issues of uneven economic development around the world.

#### **Prerequisites**

GEOG 2200 or permission of the Department.

#### **Course materials**

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

The syllabus and additional information and materials for the course will be posted on the cuLearn Course Management System. You must access your cuLearn account by going to: <http://carleton.ca/culearnsupport/students/getting-started>

Please check cuLearn before coming to class. Note that lecture topics and required readings are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be announced on cuLearn.

## Course Evaluation

### Attendance:

Record of arriving to class on time	2.5%
Record of staying for the whole class	2.5%

### Student research:

Individual term paper (2,500 to 3,000 words, due December 8)	45%
Presentation (in groups of two, 10 minutes per group):	10%

<u>Midterms</u> (Oct. 20 and Nov. 24, 20% each):	40%
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Note that the instructor may adjust course grades at the end of the term to approximate a bell-shaped distribution for the class.

Minimum standards to be in good standing: To be considered in good standing, students must receive a D- or higher in the midterm exams.

## Retain copies of work submitted

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

## Communication with the instructor

You are encouraged to contact the instructor with questions and concerns about the course, readings, or assignments. As you know, e-mail is excellent for conveying simple information but not a good medium for complex communication. Feel free to send messages to the instructor when you can realistically expect that your question can be answered in one or two sentences. Questions like "what are you looking for on the exam?" are inappropriate for an e-mail format. For this kind of complex information, please e-mail the instructor to schedule an appointment and speak with him in person. It is important to include the course code in the subject line of all e-mails, to prevent messages from being automatically redirected to the instructor's junk e-mail box.

## 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.

## 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/>

## **Academic accommodations**

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

- **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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of**

**Accommodation** 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*). 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*) at <http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

- **Religious obligation:** Write to me 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: <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>
- **Pregnancy obligation:** Write to me 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: <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>

### **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.