

COURSE OUTLINE

GEOG 3404: GEOGRAPHIES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FALL 2018 [0.5 credit]

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Pablo Mendez

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

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

Location: Mackenzie Building, Room 3269

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 to 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 dynamic and prosperous. 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 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 *everywhere* around the world.

Prerequisites

GEOG 2200 or permission of the Department.

Learning Outcomes

Students will gain a geographic understanding of the concept of uneven economic development and the key elements and actors of the processes it describes. They will also develop the ability to recognize and explain how economic development links different places at multiple spatio-temporal scales. Students will also learn about and acquire the ability to critically discuss some of the most important current issues and controversies related to this foundational topic in economic geography.

Course materials

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

Students wishing to deepen their knowledge of economic geography are invited to consider reading this optional textbook: *Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction* by Trevor Barnes and Brett Christophers, January 2018, Wiley-Blackwell (ISBN: 978-1-118-87432-5). A few copies will be available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore.

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 calendar

Topics covered: Review of Geography's conceptual priors; capitalism and the geography of inequality; key features of the process of economic development; the role of the state; fictitious commodities (labour, money, land/nature); technology; the globalization of production; consumption; economic crisis and state responses; alternatives to capitalist economic development. A detailed syllabus will be made available on the first day of class.

Exams and deadlines: See course evaluation below.

Evaluation

Presentation and slides (presentation dates to be assigned)	15%
Online midterms (October 19 and November 30, during class time)	40%
Term paper (due December 7 at 2pm on cuLearn)	35%
Attendance and participation	10%

Note that the instructor may adjust course grades at the end of the term to approximate a bell-shaped distribution for the class.

You will write the midterm exams on cuLearn, and you may do so from anywhere with a reliable WiFi connection. Lecture will be cancelled on those days. Both midterms will consist of essay questions (two to three essays, one to two pages each) relating to the instructor's lectures. The second midterm is not cumulative. You are not allowed to work with others during the midterm exams or to consult course materials or any other sources. Every student must work alone. Note that you will be able to review your midterm exam answers via cuLearn. Please note also that there will be no make-up midterms; if you miss one for justifiable and documented reasons, your grade on the other midterm will count for both exams. Missing a midterm without a justifiable and documented reason will attract a grade of zero on the exam.

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. Presentations will take place throughout the term. The required group size is two students per group. Each group will need to prepare a set of presentation slides and submit them on cuLearn the night before. Please do not submit your slides via email. Students who send their presentation slides to the instructor via email without his prior approval will attract a penalty of 20 points out of 100 on their presentation mark.

You will have the option either to write your term paper on the same topic as your presentation or to choose a different topic from the list of presentation topics provided by the instructor. Even though you will be working together with a class mate on the presentation, you will need to research and write your term paper on your own. Proper spelling, grammar and use of [ASA citation format](#) is expected. Students will be able to make an appointment with the instructor in January to review their marked term project. Note that term papers submitted after the December 7, 2pm deadline will attract a penalty

of 5 points out of 100 per day late. More details about the term paper requirements will be provided in class and posted on cuLearn.

Attendance and participation in class discussion are expected throughout the term and will each count for 5% of your course grade. Participation includes asking questions for clarification and making relevant comments, both during lectures and during the question period after the student presentations. Please note that your grade will depend more on the quality than the quantity of your participation. Students with anxiety issues who are unable to participate orally in class discussion may ask the instructor for permission to submit written questions and comments immediately at the end of each class.

Minimum standards to be in good standing:

To be considered in good standing, students must receive a D- or higher in at least one of the midterm exams. At the discretion of the instructor, students who fail to meet these requirements 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

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 email the instructor to schedule an in-person or telephone appointment. It is important to include the course code in the subject line of all emails to the instructor, to prevent messages from being automatically redirected to the instructor's junk email box.

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 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: 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.