

University of Hawai'i Hilo
Fall Semester 2003

GEOG 321:LOCATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (3CR)

Kanaka`ole 106, TTH 11:00-12:15; EKH

*Who controls the guns in a society is always crucial.
But who controls the phones and how they work also matters.*
T. L. Friedman 2000, The Lexus and the Olive Tree.

Instructor: Professor Sonia Juvik
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Office: TTH 10:00 - 11: & 2:00-3:00 and by appointment.

WHY ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

This course is an introduction to Economic Geography, and is a requirement of the Geography Major. The Geography faculty share the view that it is necessary for all of us to be *akamai* (smart) as to the importance of "cost" and income considerations in the spatial distribution of economic development, as well as the distribution of power and conflict throughout the world. Economic Geography draws concepts from the discipline of Economics in which "market efficiency" is the central force responsible for resolving the problem of distribution in the face scarcity of resources. Economic Geography acknowledges this reality as well as the fact that the patterns of distribution are shaped by the political economy of the different countries of the world. We will explore basic economic concepts, patterns of distribution, theories and approaches for understanding the unequal distribution of economic development around the world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course objectives are to:

- describe the spatial organization of economic activity in contemporary world development
- understand theories of economic development as well as their similarities and differences
- to identify the geographical, political and cultural factors that shape the world economy.
- be able to identify and critically evaluate assumptions and arguments contained in the readings and made by the instructor.

Benchmarks of our success:

Geog 321 students should be able to:

- know broad patterns in the distribution of relevant geographic variables.
- recognize and use the vocabulary and explain concepts basic to economic geography.
- explain the processes that produce diversity in the spatial distribution of economic phenomena.
- understand the rationale for, and be able to assess “best location” for an economic activity.
- perform basic quantitative and qualitative analysis using demographic and economic data.

Note: Any student with a documented disability who would like to request assistance should contact the University Disability Services Office - Campus Center Room 311, 933-0816 or 933-3334 or see.

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Textbook: Stutz, Frederick P. and Anthony R. de Souza. 1998
The World Economy: Resources, Location, Trade and Development (Prentice Hall).
2. Other materials (book chapters, journal articles and Internet sources) as indicated in syllabus.
3. Please pay attention to media discussions of economic issues - local, national and international. Ask if the discussion relates to problems or issues. What geographical areas are affected (local areas, regions, or states/county or global). Also ask who is affected and how.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1. Four Examinations (examination style: short answers, short essays, some quantitative analysis and test of comprehension of correlation between economic variables. (100 points each exam)
For examination dates see schedule below.
2. Weekly/periodic short quizzes, exercises or reading summaries (100 points total)
3. Hilo area field research project (6-8 pages,100 points) **Due Nov. 18**
4. Summary of economics conditions in one country (see Internet sites listed in Text p. 161) (5-6 pages, 50 points) **Due Dec 5th**
5. Earn 10 extra points to be added to your final score by actively contributing to classroom discussion (draw attention to current local and national economic discussion, raise questions related to assigned readings or other material you have read, seen or heard).

GRADING

- A = 89-100% of total points;
 B- = 78-79, B = 80-85, B+ = 86-88%;
 C- = 60- 64, C = 65-74, C+ = 75-78%,

D = 55-60%;
F = <55%

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & EXAMINATIONS

PART 1: Global Economic Development in Theory and Reality.

Chapters. 12, 1 & readings

Date, Topics, Readings:

8/26-28 Economic Geography: Basic concepts
What's in a name: Developed, underdeveloped or developing:
Theories of Development
Causes and characteristics of development and underdevelopment
Political economy of economic globalization

Video: Singapore: from underdeveloped to developed

Assigned readings:

1. "The Enigma of Kerala" UTNE Reader, Mar/Apr. 1996.
2. "Global competitive advantage" from Chapter 1 and Chapter 2, Berry, Conklin & Ray, 1997, *The Global Economy in Transition*. Prentice Hall.
3. "Introduction" from Barber, B. R. 1995, *Jihad vs. McWorld*, Ballantine.
4. See Feminism and Globalization: The Impact of The Global Economy on Women and Feminist Theory at: <http://www.law.indiana.edu/glsj/vol14/nol/toc/html>

Research Assignment:

1. Look through the past two years of the journal *Economic Geography* in UH Library and write a half to one page summary of the type of research being done in the field. Read one article more closely and write a one page summary of the article.
DUE September 9th.

9/13 Possible South Kohala Field Trip: All day (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Saturday

9/18 FIRST EXAMINATION: Chapters 1, 12, and readings.

PART 2: Spatial Distribution of Factor Inputs.

Chapters 2, 3 & 4

9/23-10/16 Demographic Characteristics and distribution of rich and poor labor power
Causes and consequences of global labor flows
Trends in supply and demand of renewable and non renewable natural resources
Technologies for the movement of people and goods

10/9 SECOND EXAMINATION. Chapters 2, 3 & 4.

Possible Hilo vicinity Field Exercise/discussion: Half day+ Sat. Oct 11. Sat.

Research Assignment

Discuss Field research: "Distribution and locational characteristics of Hilo area convenience stores". Work in groups if possible, but present individual written report.

Due November 18 with Class discussion.

**PART 3: Factors influencing distribution of industry
Chapters 5, 7 & 8**

10/16-11/6 Cost factors and the spatial separation of agricultural crops
The location of manufacturing industry
Changes in industrial the location of economic activities over time?

Video: “Business at the Speed of Light” and other short videos.

Research Assignment

Discuss requirements of short, 5-6 page, term paper. Examine the economy of one country of your choice and discuss economic development status and issues using terms and concepts learned throughout the course. **Due 12/5**

11/13 THIRD EXAMINATION. Chapters 5,7 & 8

11/18-12/11 **Part 4. International Trade and Transnational Integration
Chapters 10 and 11**

Patterns of international trade
Changing world of economic geography
Guest Speaker: What of the Pacific Century?

12/16 FINAL EXAMINATION: **Thur. 5/16 at 9:40 a.m. Chap. 10 & 11 and Guest**

Mahalo for your participation in GEOG 321.

Add Notes: