

University of Florida • Department of Geography
Global and Regional Economies
GEO 2500 • Section 0450 • Fall 2008
T, Periods 2-3; R, Period 3 • CSE E222

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00-1:00 or by appt.

Course Description

This course highlights contemporary issues, benefits, and problems associated with regional and global economic integration. Regional variations and disparities in economic growth, demographics, and development are analyzed and policy implications discussed. Topic areas include contemporary debates on globalization, issues underlying uneven economic development, and the parallel growth of the legitimate global marketplace and the global criminal economy. The course considers both the developed and the developing world. A lecture and discussion format is used in this class. Class attendance and participation in class discussions are mandatory.

Course Reading Materials

Dicken, Peter. 2007. *Global Shift* 5th Edition. Oxford: Blackwell.

Easterly, William. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Cambridge, MA and London: MIT Press.

Van Schendel, Willem and Itty Abraham, Eds. 2005. *Illicit Flows and Criminal Things: States, Borders, on the Other Side of Globalization*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

You will also be expected to read a newspaper of your choice regularly and be prepared to discuss current events in class. Many newspapers can be accessed on-line so there is no need to subscribe to any particular paper. Additional readings may be handed out in class.

General Requirements

Requirements for this course include attendance and participation in class, two midterm exams, and a final exam. Course readings will come from the assigned reading materials, a newspaper of your choice, and, occasionally, additional materials that will be handed out in class. We will discuss current events as they relate to the global economy in class so it is important to read a newspaper with international coverage regularly. The exams will be based on materials presented in the lectures, the required readings, and major current events reported in the news.

NOTE: Make-up exams cannot be given, except in documented emergencies in which the professor has been contacted in advance or as soon afterwards as possible. Requests for such exceptions must be submitted in writing, with full explanations and documentation attached. The format of any make-up exam will be at the discretion of the professor.

Academic Integrity

You should read the University's Guide to academic honesty, which is available online at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php>. Plagiarism and other violations of academic honesty are unacceptable. If you are found to have cheated, you will be penalized by the reduction of your course grade, and may be subject to further penalties. You should expect the minimum penalty to be a failing grade for the course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodations(s).

Classroom Etiquette

Cell phones (including text messaging) must be turned off while you are in the classroom. All music playing devices must be turned off and earphones must be removed during class. Computers are not to be used for non class-related purposes during class time.

Assessment and Grades

There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. These may test all material included in the assigned readings and all the material covered in class. There will be no extra credit assignments.

- **Midterm Exams** There will be two midterm exams; one on September 25th and the other on October 30th. The exam will be a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and fill in the blank questions. They will be based on course readings and on class discussion and lectures. In the event of an illness or emergency (which must be documented) a make-up exam will be given. The format of the make-up exam will be at the discretion of the instructor. The midterm exams combined will be worth 50% of your final grade
- **Final Exam** The final exam will be worth 40% of your grade. As with the midterms, the questions on the final exam will be a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and fill in the blank questions. There will also be an essay component of the final exam. The final exam will be held on Wednesday, December 17th from 3:00-5:00pm.
- **Attendance and Class Participation** I will regularly circulate an attendance sheet at the beginning of class, which you should sign. If you are more than 15 minutes late to class, you will be marked absent for the day. Signing the attendance sheet for others is considered academic dishonesty. Attendance will constitute 10% of your grade. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences without any penalty. After that, you lose ½ a percentage point from your attendance grade for each unexcused absence.

Grading Scale

90% and above = A

86-89% = B+

80-85% = B

76-79% = C+

70-75% = C

60-69% = D

59% and below = F

Class Schedule and Reading

Readings should be done by the date indicated, and you should always come to class prepared to discuss them.

Theme: Economic Integration in the Developed World

Week 1. (Aug 23 & 26) **Introduction to Course and Important Concepts**

Readings – Dicken, Chapter 1

Week 2. (Sept 2 & 4) **Geography and Globalization**

Readings – Dicken, Chapters 2 & 3

Week 3. (Sept 9 & 11) **Transnational Corporations**

Readings – Dicken, Chapters 4, 5, & 16

Week 4. (Sept 16 & 18) **The State and the Economy**

Readings – Dicken, Chapters 6, 7, & 8

Week 5. (Sept 23 & 25) **Specific Sectors within the Economy**

Readings – Dicken, Chapters 12, 13, & 17

NOTE: September 25th – Midterm #1

Theme: Barriers to Economic Integration in the Developing World

Week 6. (Sept 30 & Oct 2) **Globalization and Economic Development**

Readings – Dicken, Chapter 15 & 18; Easterly, Chapters 1 & 2

Week 7. (Oct 7 & 9) **Physical and Human Capital**

Readings – Easterly, Chapters 3, 4, 9, & 15

Week 8. (Oct 14 & 16) **Population and Urbanization**

Readings – Easterly, Chapters 5 & 10

Week 9. (Oct 21 & 23) **Disease and Corruption**

Readings – Easterly, Chapters 6, 11, & 12

Week 10. (Oct 28 & 30) **Conflict**

Readings – Easterly, Chapter 13

NOTE: October 30th – Midterm #2

Theme: The Illegal Trades – The Underbelly of Economic Integration

Week 11. (Nov 4 & 6) **A Trading World**

Readings – van Schendel and Abraham, Introduction & Chapter 1

Week 12. (Nov 11 & 13) **Illegal Migration and Trafficking People**

Readings – van Schendel and Abraham, Chapters 2 & 5

Week 13. (Nov 18 & 20) **Money Laundering and the Drug Trade**

Readings – van Schendel and Abraham, Chapters 3 & 4

Week 14. (Nov 25) **The Arms Trade**

Readings – van Schendel and Abraham, Chapter 7

NOTE: No classes on November 27th (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Week 15. (Dec 2 & 4) **The Diamond Trade**

Readings – van Schendel and Abraham, Chapter 6

Week 16. (Dec 9 & 11) **Summing Up, Final Discussion and Review**

Readings – Dicken, Chapter 19 & Conclusion

FINAL EXAM (17 D) – Wednesday, December 17th at 3:00pm to 5:00pm