

Economic Geography 121 EC

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Economic Geography represents the study of the location, distribution and spatial organization of economic activities across the Earth.

In today's highly competitive economy, many companies, firms and organizations are aware that understanding geography, possibly through mapping, can represent a competitive strategic advantage. Significant cost savings and profit opportunities can result from the understanding of the geographic context of activities such as sales and marketing, distribution and logistics, as well as competitor activity.

The course examines the way in which individuals and enterprises organize their economic activities in space and the extent to which society recognizes the socio-economic impacts of such activities across space and uses its institutions to influence these interdependencies and impacts.

The course is focused on how geographic and economic conditions affect the products, industries, commerce and resources in a variety of regions. The course tackles the concepts, theories, and methodologies used by geographers to analyze economic change.

The course provides an introduction to Economic and Human Geography, particularly in terms of the geographical pattern of residentiality, production and consumption, as well as the consumer's behaviour.

These topics include theories and basic economic geography models as, for instance, location theories, gravity and spatial interaction models.

1. the perspective of location and spatial distribution of economic activities, including questions of "place", "locality", "site and situation" and land use;
2. the perspective of spatial interaction and economic dependence and interdependence (exchange, trade, transportation, migration, information and capital flows, communication networks and the economic geography of the Internet); and
3. the perspective of economic change in a spatial context (regional growth or decline, technological innovation, processes of structural change [i.e. long-run compositional and interdependence changes in the economy] regional economic development etc.).

Topics covered

Geography, economy and business

Human and Economic Geography;

Population Distribution and Structure; Demographic Theory; Migration

The foundations of spatial economics;

Central Place Theory - The System of Cities;

Urban retail – Trade Area Analysis;

Gravitation and spatial interaction models;

Markets and locations of services;

Real estate, retail, transport and space; Transport Networks; Transport Costs; Telecommunications

GIS and spatial models:

Geographic Information Technologies: GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing and their applications in business, economics and planning;

Geodemographics

Geographies of consumption, behaviour, attitude, deprivation

Materials – Powerpoint presentations, key articles, case studies materials - will be made available throughout the course.

The textbook is Anderson W. P., *Economic Geography*, Routledge, London, 2012, limited to the following chapters.

Part I, ch. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6.

Part III, all chapters

Part IV, all chapters

Part V, all chapters

Part VI, ch. 25 (reading)

Appendixes and boxes are not mandatory.

The following books can be used as supplemental material:

- Jean-Paul Rodrigue, Claude Comtois and Brian Slack (2009) *The Geography of Transport Systems*, Second Edition, New York: Routledge, 284 pages.
- Frederick P. Stutz and Barney Warf (2012) *The World Economy: Resources, Location, Trade, and Development*, 6th Edition. Prentice Hall, Saddle River, NJ.