

GGG 305: Economic Geography Spring 2018

Class Meets:

Tu, Th 1:30-2:45 p.m.
Exploratory 2103

Instructor:

Timothy Leslie, PhD
Associate Professor
tleslie@gmu.edu

Course Text: No Textbook, Readings
will be provided

Office: Exploratory Hall, rm 2207
Phone: 703-993-4336
Office Hours: Th 12-1 or by appt

Course Materials: Blackboard will be used for the distribution of lectures and activities. Blackboard is accessed through <http://mymason.gmu.edu>. I expect you to be able to access the electronic resources of the University. I will occasionally use e-mail to distribute messages related to class, so you should either regularly check your Mason e-mail, or have it forwarded somewhere you do check.

Course Organization: This will be a standard lecture-format class with a few days set aside for discussion. There will be two examinations, each covering *approximately* one half of the material. Exams will combine short-answer and multiple-choice questions to explore your understanding of the material. Aside from the exams, the remaining portion of your grade will be determined from applications of the course material as well as engagement with assigned readings.

Course Mission: Economic geography is a blend of geographic principles applied to the behavior of purchasing and spatial distribution of economic activity. In this class we will examine many of the theories, models, and data regarding the American and world economies. At the end of the course, each student should have a fundamental understanding of the principles underlying the public discourse of economic growth and its regional differences, and will have demonstrated the course topics

Grading Policy: Your grade will be evaluated in the following manner:

Exam 1: 30%
Exam 2: 30%

Course Project / Assignments: 24%
Discussion Periods: 16%

Grades generally follow 90/80/70/60 with +/- being about 3 percent of the cutoffs. I reserve the right to alter the exact boundaries at the end of the semester. No late work will be accepted without a documented excuse. If you are not satisfied with your progress during the semester, please see me as early as possible; do not wait until the end of the semester to address these concerns.

Classroom Expectations: You are expected to be respectful of your peers and your instructor in both words and actions. This ranges from classroom interactions to the simple act of showing up to class on time. While this is a computer classroom, we will generally not be using the computers except for very specific activities, and students are asked to not engage in activities that are unrelated to the class.

Academic Integrity: The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines

regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) Project work is to be done individually; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification.

Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using MLA or APA format (or similar). A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me. Ignorance is not an excuse.

Diversity: George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected. Abridging these community principles will result in a referral to Student Conduct.

Disability Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Anticipated Course Calendar (topics subject to change)

#	Date	Lecture Topic	Event
1	23-Jan	What is Economic Geography?	
2	25-Jan	Economic of Populations	
3	30-Jan	Components of the Economy	
4	1-Feb	Central Place Theory	
5	6-Feb	Inequality	
6	8-Feb		Discussion 1
7	13-Feb	Urban Economic Models	
8	15-Feb	Urban Economic Models II	
9	20-Feb	Globalization	
10	22-Feb	Economic Development Theories	Lab Deadline I
11	27-Feb	Economies of Scale	
12	1-Mar	Economies of Scale II	
13	6-Mar		Exam 1
14	8-Mar		Discussion 2
15	13-Mar		Spring Break
16	15-Mar		Spring Break
17	20-Mar	Spatial Interaction	
18	22-Mar	Weber	
19	27-Mar	Shift Share Analysis	
20	29-Mar	Gendered and Ethnic Economic Spaces	
21	3-Apr	Geographies of Food	Lab Deadline II
22	5-Apr		Discussion 3
23	10-Apr	Innovation	
24	12-Apr	Economic Base	
25	17-Apr	Economic Base II	
26	19-Apr	Labor Cost Geography	
27	24-Apr	TBD	
28	26-Apr	Economic Geography's Role in the World	
29	1-Mar		Discussion 4
30	3-May		Exam 2
	15-May		Lab Deadline III