

GGG 305: Economic Geography Spring 2015

Class Meets:

Th 1:30-4:00 p.m.
Exploratory 2310

Course Text: No Text

Instructor:

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Associate Professor
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Office: Exploratory Hall, rm 2405
Phone: 703-993-4336
Office Hours: Th 4-5 or by appt

On the Web: Blackboard will be used for the distribution of lectures and activities. Blackboard is accessed through <http://mymason.gmu.edu>. All assignments are to be turned in **on paper** and are due *at the start of class*.

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 three homework assignments and four discussions (with reflection papers) based on readings relevant to the course topics.

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.

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

Lab Assignments	24%		
Exam 1	22%	Paper Summaries	16%
Exam 2	22%	Class Discussion	16%

Grades generally follow 90/80/70/60 with +/- being 3 percent of the cutoffs. I reserve the right to alter the exact boundaries at the end of the semester. Late assignments are docked 10% each weekday they are late.

Honor Code: GMU has an honor code in place. You are responsible for protecting your work and computer files from being accessed by others. *Any* form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or course and a possible referral to University Administration for further disciplinary actions. Discussing academic works you are reading is fine; sharing your paper is not. Also notable is that sharing your work makes you just as culpable as the one who turns in a copy of your work, and you should not leave copies easily accessible.

Anticipated Course Calendar:

Date	Part 1	Part 2
22-Jan	1 - What is Economic Geography	2 - Economics of Population
29-Jan	3 - Components of the Economy	4 - Economic Urban Models
5-Feb	5 - Inequality	6 – Globalization
12-Feb	7 - Development Theories	<i>Discussion 1 (Urban Growth)</i>
19-Feb	8 – Shift Share Analysis <i>HW 1 Due</i>	9 – Spatial Interaction
26-Feb	10 – Labor Cost Geography	11 – Convergence
5-Mar	Exam 1	<i>Discussion 2 (Inequality)</i>
12-Mar	<i>No Class - Spring Break</i>	
19-Mar	12 – Agglomeration	13 – Localization / Urbanization
26-Mar	14 – Innovation <i>HW 2 Due</i>	15 – World Agriculture Markets
2-Apr	16 – Economic Base Analysis	
9-Apr	17 – Resources	<i>Discussion 3 (Invention)</i>
16-Apr	18 – Central Place Theory	19 – Transportation
23-Apr	19 - Weber	20 – Location Science
30-Apr	21 – Summary <i>HW 3 Due</i>	<i>Discussion 4 (Facility Location)</i>
7-May	Final Exam (75 minutes)	