

Geography 301: Global Economic Geography

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15

Butte Hall 503

A systematic survey of human economic activities. Analysis of resource exploitation and use, including agriculture, extractive activities, industry, commerce, and service functions. Recommended for business and liberal arts majors. This is an approved Non-Western course.

This course will introduce or practice five of the Geography and Planning Department's student learning outcomes:

- *Formulate geographic research questions*
- *Recognize the presence and application of regional, local and global dimensions of the social and physical worlds in data*
- *Understand varying interpretations of causality, interaction, policy and values in human-environmental relationship*
- *Understand ways in which we use the environment can affect future generations and other human and natural systems*
- *Analyze information from different physical or social sciences from a geographic perspective*

What is Economic Geography? Economic Geography is a field of human geography that focuses on how production and consumption are distributed on the earth's surface, how that distribution got that way, and how it is changing. As I teach it, it is concerned with "the sustainable and humane production, use and reproduction of the social, natural and material conditions of human existence" (From *Dictionary of Human Geography*, 3rd Edition).

We will explore global economic geography through a focus on the **lives of commodities** from political and institutional perspectives. We will look at the lives of commodities from three "sectors," and at different moments and places on the "commodity chain." The sectors are (1) Agriculture/raw materials. Examples will include food, drugs and stimulants -- such as coffee--, with a special focus on goods that are typically grown or collected in tropical areas for export to the richer nations in temperate zones; (2) Manufactured goods. Examples include the computer and textile industries; (3) Services. Examples include financial services, medical services, personal services, and sales. You will notice that often one commodity passes through all three of these sectors. Reality is complex!

- We will look at commodities through time, and look at their association with different labor regimes such as slavery, peasant agriculture or wage labor. We will look at labor mobility trends in different sectors.
- We will look at their uneven impacts on cities and regions, and environmental impacts such as deforestation, population change (especially migration), and waste disposal.
- We will also look at how global business practices (multinational strategies, location decisions, agro-industrialization, technologies) affect local economies and the work experience.
- We will read about and discuss "alternatives" to globalization and free trade, such as fair trade.

Course Requirements:

	Points
• Think pieces on readings	30
• Final (cumulative)	20
• Project 1	30
• Project 2 or 3	20
• Total	100

Your attendance may affect your grade.

The Final Exam can cover all readings, and any classroom materials, discussions or activities. It will be a combination of essay, short answer, identification and multiple choice questions (something for everyone!). Please bring a mini-essay Scantron to each exam. You may bring in your class notes during the exam.

There will be 12 “think pieces” on your readings for each week, worth 3 points each. You will hand these in to me first thing on Tuesday of each week. You may miss two of these for any reason, but if you complete all 12 with a passing mark, you will receive 6 extra credit points. Further explanations in class.

Required Purchases:

The Class Reader is available at Mr. Kopy. Weekly readings are listed in the table, below. Other readings may be announced in class and posted on our Vista site.

Class Schedule

Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments/Activities
January 27, 29	Follow the Thing: Commodity Chains Modes of Production Economic Sectors Globalization/Neo-liberalism Uneven Development/World Systems	Cook, Ian. 2004. Follow the thing: Papaya. <i>Antipode</i> 36(4): 642–64 Rosenthal, Elisabeth. 2008. The food chain: environmental cost of shipping groceries around the world. <i>The New York Times</i> , April 26, business section.	Fill out and turn in student sheet to me with photo by Thursday
February 3, 5	Continued	Klak, Thomas. 2008. Neo-liberal exports and regional vulnerability. In <i>Placing Latin America: Contemporary themes in human geography</i> , ed. Edward L. Jackiewicz and Fernando J. Bosco, 31–49. Boulder, CO: Rowman and Littlefield. Florida, Richard. 2005. The world is spiky. <i>Atlantic Monthly</i> . October, 48–51. (on Vista)	Think Piece # 1 due Tuesday
February 10, 12	Agricultural Sector Colonialism/Slavery; Peasant systems	Dicken, Peter. 2007. “We are what we eat”: the agro-food industries. In <i>Global Shift</i> , 348–78. London: Guilford. Pollan, Michael. 2001. Intoxication Plant: Marijuana. In <i>The botany of desire: A plant's-eye view of the world</i> , 113–79. New York: Random House.	Project explanation Think Piece #2 due Tuesday
February 17, 19	Globalization of; Agro-forestry; Fair Trade	Cidell, Julie and Heike C. Alberts. 2006. Constructing quality: The multinational histories of chocolate. <i>Geoforum</i> 37: 999–1007. Elias, Marlène and Judith Carney. 2005. Shea butter, globalization, and women of Burkina Faso. In <i>A companion to feminist geography</i> , ed. Lise Nelson and Joni Seager, 93-108. New York: Blackwell Publishing.	Project update due Tuesday Think Piece #3 due Tuesday
February 24, 26	Multinational corporations/ Banana Republics/ enclave economies	Schlesinger, Stephen and Stephen Kinzer. 1982. The overlord: The United Fruit company. In <i>Bitter fruit: The untold story of the American coup in Guatemala</i> , 65–77. New York: Doubleday. Ellwood, Wayne. 2002. The corporate century. In <i>The no-nonsense guide to globalization</i> , 53–71. London: Verso.	Think Piece #4 due Tuesday
March 3, 5	Resource extraction	Khatchadourian, Raffi. 2008. The stolen forests: inside the covert war on illegal logging. <i>New Yorker</i> . October 6, 64–73. Campbell, Greg. 2002a. Impact: The price of despair and From pits of despair to altars of love. In <i>Blood diamonds: Tracing the deadly path of the world's most precious stones</i> , xiii–xxv; 1–23. New York: Westview Press. Seabrook, John. 2008. American Scrap. <i>New Yorker</i> . January 14, 47–59	First Project Due on Tuesday Presentations Tuesday/Thursday Think Piece #5 due Tuesday
March 10, 12	Globalization and Consumerism	Marx, Patricia. 2008. Buy Shanghai! <i>New Yorker</i> . July 21, 40–44. De Graaf, John, David Wann, and Thomoas Naylor. 2002. The road not taken, An emerging epidemic, and Political prescriptions. <i>Affluenza</i> , 139–452; 221–23. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers	Film Think Piece #6 due Tuesday
March 17, 19	Spring Break		
March 24, 26	Regions and cities	Florida, Richard. 2008. Rise of the mega-region and The Clustering force. In <i>Who's your City? How the Creative Economy is Making Where you Live the most Important Decision of your Life</i> , 41–75. New York: Perseus Books.	Project 2,3 explanations Think Piece #7 due Tuesday

April 2 (Cesar Chávez Day Tuesday, 3/31)	Continued	Davis, Mike. 2006. The urban climacteric. In <i>Planet of slums</i> , 2–19. London: Verso. Neuwirth, Robert. 2005. Rio de Janeiro: City without titles. <i>Shadow cities</i> , 25–65. London: Routledge.	Second project update due Tuesday Think Piece #8 due Tuesday
April 7, 9	Outsourcing The textile industry U.S. border region	Farrell, Diana. 2006. Smarter offshoring. <i>Harvard Business Review</i> . June, 85–92. Ransom, David. 2001. Blue jeans: beaten by the brand. In <i>The no-nonsense guide to fair trade</i> , 96–107. London: Verso.	Film: <i>Maquilopolis</i> Think Piece #9 due Tuesday
April 14, 16	Economic Location	TBA	No Think Piece due this week
April 21, 23	The computer industry	Fields, Gary. 2006. Innovation, time, and territory: space and the business organization of Dell Computer. <i>Economic Geography</i> 82(2): 119–46. Schoenberger, Erica. 2000. Creating the corporate world: Strategy and culture, time and space. In <i>A companion to economic geography</i> , ed. Eric Sheppard and Trevor J. Barnes, 377–91. London: Blackwell. Zook, Matthew. 2005. Uncovering the geography of the Internet, Origins and shape of the Internet, and Mapping the Internet industry. <i>The geography of the internet industry: Venture capital, dot-coms, and local knowledge</i> , 1–39. London: Blackwell.	Second Project Due on Tuesday Presentations Thursday Think Piece # 10 due Tuesday
April 28, 30	Globalization of services Financial Services	Lanchester, John. 2008. Melting into Air: Before the financial system went bust, it went postmodern. <i>New Yorker</i> , November 10, 80–4. Morris, Charles. 2008. A wall of money. In <i>The Trillion dollar meltdown: Easy money, high rollers, and the great credit crash</i> , 59–85. New York: Public Affairs.	Third project update due Tuesday Think Piece #11 due Tuesday
May 5, 7	Service: Flexible labor markets in the 21 st Century	Swaminathan, Madhura. 1998. Economic growth and the persistence of child labor: Evidence from an Indian City. <i>World Development</i> 26(8): 1513–28. Wolgemuth, Liz and Katy Marquardt. 2008. Recession or not, the job squeeze is on. <i>U.S. News & World Report</i> . March 24-31, 45–52	Think Piece # 12 due Tuesday
May 12, 14	Personal services go global (neo-slavery, sex, medical, adoption, tourism); labor mobility	Brennan, Denise. 2002. Selling sex for visas: sex tourism as a stepping-stone to international migration. In <i>Global woman: Nannies, maids, and sex workers in the new economy</i> , ed. Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild, 154–68. New York: Metropolitan Books. Bales, Kevin. 2007. Ending the (product) chain. In <i>Ending slavery: How we free today's slaves</i> , 177–212. Berkeley, CA: University of California, Berkeley Press. Connell, John. 2006. Sea, sun, sand and...surgery. <i>Tourism Management</i> . 27: 1093–111	Third Project Due Presentations Thursday No Think Piece due
May 21, 12:00-1:50			Final Exam

Grading Policy:

I do not discuss grades except during my office hours. I will bring graded material to class once. After that, you must get your work from me during office hours. If you have any questions about a grade or an assignment, you should see me no more than one week after I've returned the material to you. Grading on exams, assignments and on the course is based on the following scale:

95-100	A	74-76	C
90-94	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
77-79	C+	<60	F

You can have access to your own grades through Vista. For information on how to do this, please visit the portal homepage. If you have any questions or difficulties, you can call 898-HELP or email helpstu@csuchico.edu.

Other Information

You should check the Vista site for this class for announcements or reminders. Students are also responsible for reading the syllabus and knowing when assignments are due and when exams are scheduled.

I value your classroom participation. The classroom should be a safe place where all ideas, as long as they do not include bigotry, sexism or intolerance, can be expressed freely. Please listen to me and to other students, and frame your commentaries in the spirit of supportive and constructive criticism. Use non-sexist language when speaking and writing. Please see me often in office hours.

If there is evidence that you have been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, you may receive an "F" grade for the assignment or for the entire course, and a report will be provided to Student Judicial Affairs for further action. Please read the university's guidelines on academic honesty. Cite sources throughout any written assignment and in the works cited section, and use quotation marks to clearly distinguish the words and thoughts of others from your own.

If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The DSS phone number is 898-5959 V/TTY or FAX 898-4411. Visit the DSS website at <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/>.

After **February 5**, you will need my permission to add or drop the class. After **February 19** you will need a compelling reason to add or drop any course.

My contact information

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:30, or by appointment

Office: Butte 507

Phone: 898-5587

Email: Please contact me through the Vista class site

"Think Pieces"

10 Think Pieces (30% of course grade): On most Tuesdays you will submit a typed double-spaced (10-12 font; one-inch margins) 'Think Piece'. Each Think Piece should be based upon *all* the reading for that week. The content should reflect your thoughtful consideration of some aspect of the reading. Think Pieces are *not* summaries; they should be *thoughtful* reflections. Have your Think Pieces in hand at the beginning of each class. Think Pieces are graded credit/no credit. You may rewrite any think piece that you have received NC on, as long as you turn in the original along with the rewrite.

In addition to your name, make sure to include the reading (s) with relevant page numbers that you are basing your Think Piece upon. You may use quotes. Think Pieces should be at least one full page in length. No hand written papers will be accepted. Do not send Think Pieces as attachments to an email. Turn in Think Pieces yourself; do not give it to another class member to turn in for you. Submission of Think Pieces provides evidence of class attendance, but if you leave early you will not receive credit and you may not make up the assignment.

There are 12 weeks when students will turn in Think Pieces. You are allowed two *free* Think Pieces; that is, the total number you are required to turn in is 10. You are free to turn in all 12 for extra credit potential. Late Think Pieces will not be accepted (except for rewrites).

Think Pieces should have minimal spelling and/or grammatical problems.

Be prepared to share your think pieces with a classmate for in-class discussions.

Global Economic Geography Student Sheet

Your Name _____

Your Major/Minor _____

Email _____

Reason(s) why you're taking this class:

Your Picture Here:



Quick! Think of at least one way that your actions as a consumer may have affected someone at another place in the world.

How would you define "globalization?"

What do you think will be the most important trend in the world economy in the next twenty years, and how will this affect your life?

How do you define "well-being?"