



Geog 211

Politics, Economics, & Geography

University of Victoria
Geography 211 A01

January to April 2016

Course number: CRN 21679

Instructor: Dr. Bernard Henin

Office: DTB B208

Email: bhenin@uvic.ca

Telephone: 250.721.3275

Lab sections: B01 21680; B02 21681; B03 21682; B04 21683

Labs: in DTB B307

B01 – M 3:30-5:20pm

B02 – T 2:30-4:20pm

B03 – W 10:30-12:20pm

B04 – W 12:30-2:30pm

Lectures in COR B112:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

9:30am to 10:20am

Office hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 11:15am to 12:00pm + appointment

Course web page: CourseSpaces

Course description and objectives

In this course, we explore the important interconnections between politics, economics and geography. A first objective is to develop a critical understanding of how economic forces interact with the physical and human landscape in the context of the political environment. Economic activities—in agriculture, resource extraction, manufacturing and services—shape the development levels of nations and to a large extent underline the potential for human development.

We investigate local, regional and global aspects of economic development from a theoretical and empirical perspective. We point to the specific economic processes at work in both developed and developing countries. We analyze the factors leading to gaps in development between countries and regions including the role of multinational corporations, government policy and financial institutions. We give special attention to Canada's economic geography.

Finally, we explore the key concepts of political geography. In particular we examine the

implications of borders, nationalism, regionalism, geopolitics, ideology, conflict over resources and terrorism.

Course structure

The course has three components: lectures, laboratory exercises, and research. Each of these components is meant to provide further understanding of economic geography.

Tests

There will be two in-class examinations (midterms) on the material covered in lectures. Each examination will be on a specific number of topics. A final exam will be held in the exam period on the topics not covered in the midterms. See [timetable](#) below for dates and times of lectures and exams.

Laboratory exercises

There will be six laboratory exercises. They are described in the lab manual for the course, which will be made available to you at the beginning of the first lab. These exercises are designed to help you understand the material of the course more in depth. The assignments are to be submitted on the date specified by your lab instructor. Make sure that you are registered in a lab section.

Research paper

You will write a research paper on an issue related to the contents of the course. This assignment will be explained in the first lab session.

Student performance evaluation

2 midterms	25%
Lab exercises	30%
Research paper	20%
Final exam	25%
Total	100%

Important Note: Students who miss a scheduled examination will be asked to produce a doctor's certificate or equivalent.

Policies on attending labs and tests

Your TA will establish attendance and late policies for labs. Contact your lab instructor at least four days before a midterm if you must miss (for legitimate, documented reason). There will be zero tolerance for missing the final exam.

Textbook and course materials

Mackinnon, D. and Cumbers, A.. 2011. *Introduction to Economic Geography: Globalization, Uneven Development and Place*, 2nd edition. Harlow: Pearson Education.

Gallaher, C., Dahlman, C. T, Gilmartin, M., Mountz, A. and Shirlow, P. 2009. *Key Concepts in Political Geography*. London: Sage Publications.

Additional readings, including websites, are assigned to each topic. These will be listed in the topic outlines available on the Moodle shell for the course.

A number of videos will be shown in class to illustrate the course material and stimulate discussions in class.

Class schedule

Week	Date (Tue)		Date (Wed)		Date (Fri)	
1	Jan 5	Introduction / Topic 1	Jan 6	Topic 1	Jan 8	Topic 1
2	Jan 12	Topic 2	Jan 13	Topic 2	Jan 15	Topic 2
3	Jan 19	Topic 3	Jan 20	Topic 3	Jan 22	Topic 3
4	Jan 26	Finish topics / Questions	Jan 27	Test 1 (Topic 1, 2, 3) – 13%	Jan 29	Topic 4
5	Feb 2	Topic 4	Feb 3	Topic 4	Feb 5	Topic 5
6	Feb 9	Reading break	Feb 10	Reading break	Feb 12	Reading break
7	Feb 16	Topic 5	Feb 17	Topic 5	Feb 19	Test 2 (Topic 4, 5) – 12%
8	Feb 23	Topic 6	Feb 24	Topic 6	Feb 26	Topic 6
9	Mar 1	Topic 6	Mar 2	Topic 7	Mar 4	Topic 7
10	Mar 8	Topic 7	Mar 9	Topic 8	Mar 11	Topic 8
11	Mar 15	Topic 8	Mar 16	Topic 9	Mar 18	Topic 9
12	Mar 22	Topic 10	Mar 23	Topic 10	Mar 25	Good Friday-no class
13	Mar 29	Topic 10	Mar 30	Topic 10	April 1	Topic 10
Paper due Friday, April 8 (20%)						
FINAL EXAM (25%) — Topic 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 — Scheduled in the examination period.						

Course syllabus

Topic 1. Introduction to economic geography

Topic 2. Approaches to economic geography

Topic 3. The capitalist economy: concepts, actors and processes

Topic 4. The rise of industrial regions

Topic 5. The post-industrial economy: Deindustrialization, new industrial spaces and service centres

Topic 6. Internationalization of manufacturing and services: foreign investment, commodity chains, global retail, tourism and international finance

Topic 7. Agriculture: from traditional systems to global food markets

Topic 8. Canada's economic geography

Topic 9. Alternative economies

Topic 10: Selected topics in political geography

Lab schedule

Lab exercises are scheduled for every other week, starting on the second week of the term. The lab sessions are scheduled according to lab section:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Room</i>
Monday	15:30 -17:20	DTB B307
Tuesday	14:30 - 16:20	DTB B307
Wednesday	10:30 – 12:20	DTB B307
Wednesday	12:30 - 14:20	DTB B307

Performance report

The instructor will provide students with an updated report on their performance on a regular basis. Students are advised to consult the instructor before the last withdrawal day to ensure all available options have been reviewed.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism in writing term papers will not be tolerated. Plagiarism detection software will be used in case of doubt.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (<http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Positivity and safety

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

Geography undergraduate grade scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	0-49%

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Geography Department information

Geography Department website: <http://geography.uvic.ca>

GEOPLAN degree planning guide:

<http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/undergraduate/advising/Plan%20Your%20Geography%20Degree/index.php> (Log in as a guest)

Undergraduate Advising: contact main office (SSM B203) at geoinfo@uvic.ca or 250.721.7327

Graduate Advisor: Dennis Jelinski (jelinski@office.geog.uvic.ca)