Economic Geography
Geography 309
450:309:01

Overview
This course provides an introduction to the field of economic geography. The course explores processes driving spatial patterns of economic activity at the global, national, regional and urban scales. Topic areas include economic foundations, resources and agriculture, industrial location, land use and urban economies, globalization and international trade, the Economy and alternative economies. A lecture and discussion format is used in the class. Class attendance and participation in class discussion are mandatory.

Times and Places
Class: MTH 8:10-9:30; Scott Hall 201, College Ave Campus

Contact Information
Professor Robin Leichenko
Email: robin.leichenko@rutgers.edu
Office: B-265 Lucy Stone Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-3pm or by appointment

Requirements and percentage of grade associated with each requirement
1. First Midterm exam (25 percent)
2. Second Midterm exam (25 percent)
3. Two written assignments (30 percent)
4. Discussion questions (10 percent)
5. Class Participation (10 percent)
   -Mandatory participation in class discussions
   -Mandatory attendance in class
   -Mandatory participation in group presentation

Required Textbook and Required Readings
Other required readings and materials for the class will posted on the course Sakai website.

Exams
There will be two in-class midterms. The format of the midterms will include short essays and short answer definitions of key terms. There is no final exam in this class.
Assignments
The class assignments will be posted and submitted on Sakai using the “Assignments” feature on the Sakai course website. Each assignment will entail a three to four page write-up with a minimum of 750 words of written text, plus additional text for proper citation of references. This write up must be done individually and must contain your own words and thoughts. Assignment 2 will also entail development of a powerpoint that will be presented as part of a small group assignment (grading will be done individually).

Late assignments will not be accepted except in the event of illness or religious observance (which must be documented in writing).

Discussion questions
Students are required to develop a list of at least five issues and/or questions for class discussion based on reading assignments and on-line materials. These question lists need to be written using complete sentences. The questions should focus on issues you think are interesting and meaningful and that might be worth discussion with the class. There are four dates when discussion questions are due (see key dates and schedule below).

Discussion questions will submitted via the course Sakai site and will be graded on a check, check-plus, or check-minus basis. We will use these questions as the basis for class discussions.

Late discussion questions will not be accepted except in the event of religious observance, documented illness, or documented family emergency.

Key Dates
Feb 6 (Wed): Discussion qs #1 due (post to Sakai by 11:55pm)
Feb 20 (Wed): Discussion qs #2 due (post to Sakai by 11:55pm)
Feb 28 (Thu): Midterm 1 in class
Mar 6 (Wed): Discussion qs #3 due (post to Sakai by 11:55pm)
Mar 14 (Thu): Assignment 1 due (post to Sakai by 11:55pm)
Apr 3 (Wed): Discussion qs #4 due (post to Sakai by 11:55pm)
Apr 22 (Mon): Midterm #2 in class
May 6 (Mon): Assignment 2 in class presentations (ppt post to Sakai by 11:55pm)

Classroom Etiquette
Cell phones (including text messaging) must be turned off while you are in the classroom. You are expected to pay active attention to class lectures and discussion and to be actively involved in-class group assignments.

Policies regarding Missed Exams and Academic Integrity
Make-up exams will not be given except in the event of religious observance, documented illness, documented family emergency, or documented Rutgers team event. Students are expected to understand and to act in accordance with the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy: [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity)

15 January 2013
Lecture Topic Areas, Assigned Readings, and Discussion Schedule

Assigned readings must be read prior to the classes in which they are discussed.

(Chapters refer to Anderson textbook; Readings on Sakai are readings that will be posted in the “Resources” section of the Sakai site in folders labeled for each topic/week)

Week 1 (Jan 24) Introduction

Week 2 (Jan 28, Jan 31) Key Terms and Concepts
Readings: Anderson - Chapters 1 and 2

Week 3 (Feb 4, Feb 7) Key Terms and Concepts
Readings: Anderson - Chapters 3 and 4

Feb 4 (Mon) Bill McKibben lecture (7:30pm in Rutgers Student Center).

Feb 6: (Wed) Discussion questions #1 due (must be posted to Sakai by 11:55pm) - these questions should focus on Anderson chapters 1-4

Week 4 (Feb 11, Feb 14) Population, Development and Resources
No In-Class Session on Feb 11
See Web Links posted on Sakai
Readings: Anderson - Chapter 6

Week 5 (Feb 18, Feb 21) Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources
Reading for discussion: To be posted

Feb 20 (Wed) Discussion questions #2 due (must be posted to Sakai by 11:55pm) - these questions should focus on reading to be posted

Week 6 (Feb 25, Feb 28) Agriculture and Production Technology
Readings: Anderson, Chapter 7

Feb 28 Midterm 1 – In Class

Week 7 (Mar 4, Mar 7) Industry Location
Readings: Anderson Chapter 5, 13
Reading for discussion: To be posted

Mar 6 (Wed) Discussion questions #3 due (must be posted to Sakai by 11:55pm) - these questions should focus on reading to be posted
Week 8 (Mar 11, Mar 14) Industry Location
   Reading: Anderson Chapters 15, 16

   Mar 14 Assignment 1 due (must be posted to Sakai by 11:55pm)

Spring Break (Mar 18, Mar 21)

Week 9 (Mar 25, Mar 28) Economic and Labor Force Data
   Mar 28: Guest Lecture - Brian Davidson (recent RU grad) - US Bureau of Labor
   Statistics -- Getting a Job and the U.S. Job Market

Week 10 (Apr 1, Apr 4) Land Use and Cities
   Readings: Anderson Chapters 17, 18, 19
   Apr 3 (Wed) Discussion questions #4 (must be posted to Sakai by 11:55pm) -
   these questions should focus on Anderson chapter 19

Week 11 (Apr 8, Apr 11) Systems of Cities
   Readings: Anderson Chapters 20 and 21

Week 12 (Apr 15, Apr 18) Globalization and Trade
   Readings: Anderson Chapters 24 and 25

Week 13 (Apr 22, Apr 25) The Economy
   April 22 – Midterm 2 in class
   April 25 Explanation of Assignment 2 and formation of small groups

Week 14 (Apr 29, May 2) Alternative Economies
   In-class work on group presentations

Week 15 (May 6) Wrap-up and Group Presentations
   May 6 – Group Presentations of Assignment 2 (post ppt to Sakai by 11:55pm)