

Geography 302
Global Economic Geographies
Spring 2003

(1) Key Information

Instructor: Kris Olds, Associate Professor, Department of Geography
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Class: M,W,F 11:00-11:50, Rm 444 Science Hall
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(2) Introduction

The forces of globalization and regionalisation/regionalism play a fundamental role in the reworking of the global space economy. This course will examine perspectives on the complex reconfiguration of global economic geographies. We will pay particular attention to the evolving debate about the nature and significance of 'globalization', and the role of economic, political and technological processes in shaping geographically specific development processes. Development processes and patterns in different regions of the globe will be compared, with a particular emphasis on North America and Pacific Asia, and also on the interrelations between these two regions.

In terms of broad structure, we initiate the course with a focus on different ways of understanding the concept of globalization, and the spatial outcomes of what the economic geographer Peter Dicken calls 'global shift'. We then run through three main focal scales in the remaining parts of the course: the state; firms and business networks; and global business 'subjects' (i.e. individuals and transnational communities).

As this is a 300 level course I will expect you to have taken some courses on related issues. It would also be helpful to be interested in contemporary development issues at a global scale.

(3) Readings:

There are two required texts for this course:

Dicken, Peter (1998) *Global Shift: Transforming the World Economy*, 3rd edition, London: Paul Chapman.

Hoekman, B., and Kostecki, M. (2001) *The Political Economy of the World Trading System: The WTO and Beyond*, 2nd edition, New York: Oxford University Press.

These books are available, for purchase, at Canterbury Bookstore, 315 West Gorham, just off of State Street. I will also place both of these books on reserve in the Geography Library (280 Science Hall).

In addition to these two texts, all other 'required readings' noted below in the week by week schedule are available via e-Reserves:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/College/circreserve/ereserves/dept.htm#G>

If you have not used e-Reserve before enter this site and click on Geography 302, and then click on the relevant article or chapter (they are listed by title and author's family name).

It would also be very helpful to examine the *New York Times* and especially the *Financial Times* on a daily basis, and *The Economist* on a weekly basis. In my mind the *Financial Times* is the best source of material on global economic affairs. You can subscribe to the *Financial Times* here in Madison for a special student rate of approximately \$100 per year, and they deliver six issues per week to your home. The web sites for each are:

<http://www.ft.com>

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Finally, I recommend that you peruse copies of these two reference texts as each has a selection of clearly written short chapters on issues related to global economic geographies:

Clark, G., Feldman, M., and Gertler, M. (eds.) (2000) *The Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sheppard, E., and Barnes, T. (eds.) (2000) *A Companion to Economic Geography*, Oxford: Blackwell,

I have requested that these two texts be placed into the reserve section of the Geography Library.

(4) Course Structure, Requirements and Evaluation

I started working at UW-Madison in 2001 (after having worked in England, Canada and Singapore). One and a half years into my 'settling in' phase, I have decided to reorganize Geography 302 and change it into more of a 'learning by doing' style of class. What this means is we are going to engage with relevant issues via a relatively diverse range of activities. More specifically, each week will be subdivided into three unique yet complementary components:

Mondays	Wednesdays	Fridays
Lectures	Discussion groups on Dicken's <i>Global Shift</i> and other required readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research group formation • Book review • Research skills • Communication skills • Research practice • Writing up • Presentations

The objective is to engage with the topic of global economic geographies via a range of activities, and also facilitate the acquisition of important research and communications skills.

The mark breakdown is as follows:

Responsibilities	Percentage of Grade	Key Date(s)
Discussion Group Activity	20%	all
Book Review	20%	Due Friday, Week 6
Friday Research Activities	15%	all
Project Updates	10%	all
Draft Project Report	15%	Due Friday, Week 10
Final Project Report	20%	Due Friday, Week 15

Wednesday Discussion Group Activity (20% of grade)

Wednesdays will consist of small group discussions of the *required* readings for the course. I have included this activity to:

- Ensure that you have an opportunity to engage with the required readings in a more intensive fashion. In many societies learning takes place via informal coffee- or tea-house style interaction; a practice that is ideal for mutual engagement with complex ideas, versus the one way dynamic that dominates larger scale venues.
- Facilitate the building of social relationships in the class
- Enable me to better understand how well you are engaging with course materials

A number of discussion groups will be formed every Wednesday. One student will be required to facilitate each discussion group, and each student will get at least one chance to become a facilitator during the term. The role of the facilitator is to take the list of discussion questions I hand you at the start of each of Wednesday's classes, and facilitate a deep and interesting discussion session for the entire 50 minutes. I am expecting you to all take this responsibility seriously! A sizeable portion of your Discussion Group Activity grade (20% of

the course) is allocated to this facilitative role. I will also circulate in and out of all of the Wednesday discussion sessions.

Needless to say, it is critically important for everyone to read the *required* course materials ahead of time – please do *not* register for this class if you intend on showing up for discussion sessions in an unprepared state of mind.

Friday Research Activities (15%)

A range of research skill acquisition activities will be planned for Fridays, some in class and some in other UW-Madison venues. It is your responsibility to come to class (i.e. this is not an excuse for sluffing off on Fridays!) and participate in a genuine and sincere manner. These activities have been planned because I think students at UW-Madison (and almost everywhere else) do not acquire enough research skills; skills that are valuable for other courses, future employment, and further studies should you wish to carry on. Friday research activities will be developed in conjunction with the book review and the course project.

Book Review (20%)

You are required to produce a 2000-2500-word analytically oriented book review of:

Hoekman, B., and Kostecki, M. (2001) *The Political Economy of the World Trading System: The WTO and Beyond*, 2nd edition, New York: Oxford University Press.

This book is one of the most readable yet insightful analyses of the contemporary world trading system, and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). For all sorts of reasons it is important to enhance your understanding of the world trading system and this is an ideal way to do so. That said the book is not perfect, and it (like all books) reflects the biases of the authors.

The book review is due in class the Friday of Week 6. A 10% per hour mark reduction will be applied to all late submissions – you have been warned! I also encourage you to examine the Book Review section of academic journals to get a sense about how reviews are put together. Please review enough reviews – you will notice that some are highly descriptive, while some are critical and analytical in nature. Please try to be more critical and analytical, though this does not mean you have to hate the book – it just means you need to think about the strengths and weaknesses of the book.

I would like you to end the book review with an *additional* 500-1000 words on issues related to what academics call ‘positionality’. Reflect upon your citizenship, your geographical base (in America), and perhaps your academic background and work experiences, and tell me how your views on the book would (or would not) differ if you were reading the book from the perspective of a poor person who lives in a peripheral nation of the Global South (e.g., Indonesia, Iran, Mozambique, Ethiopia). You are welcome, though not required,

to include references to additional material on the WTO and the world trading system.

Project Updates (10%), Draft Project Report (15%) and Final Project Report (20%)

A key aspect of this course is a research project on issues related to the global space economy. You are welcome to choose *one* of the following nine project options:

GEOG 302 RESEARCH PROJECT OPTIONS (in random order)

<p><i>A. Creating Global Subjects.</i> Conduct research on efforts to create ‘global’ mindsets and dispositions, and transnational identities. Develop an understanding of this increasingly important phenomenon via an analysis (perhaps comparative) of institutions and programs such as the International Baccalaureate program in secondary schools (at a global scale) or UW-Madison “international studies” initiatives (e.g., CIBER, or student exchange programs).</p>	<p><i>E. Wisconsin’s Place in the Global Space Economy.</i> Conduct research on the nature of Wisconsin’s economic relations with non-American contexts. Develop a clear understanding of the trade, production and investment linkages that bind Wisconsin to other parts of the world, and develop an understanding of the key institutions of governance that represent Wisconsin state interests in the evolution of developmental dynamics</p>
<p><i>B. Gender and the Chinese Economic Miracle.</i> Conduct research on the gender dimensions of export-oriented industrialization in Asia. Develop a detailed analysis of the situation in coastal China.</p>	<p><i>F. Towards Bilateral Free-Trade Agreements.</i> Conduct research on the rationale, procedures and political dynamics associated with the recent free-trade agreements (FTAs) with Chile and Singapore.</p>
<p><i>C. The Global Micro-Finance Movement.</i> Conduct research on the evolving nature of ‘micro-finance’ (small scale lending institutions) and the emerging global micro-finance movement. The World Council of Credit Unions is based here in Madison and they might be a useful resource on this project.</p>	<p><i>G. The USA and GATS.</i> Conduct research on the historic and contemporary role of the United States in shaping the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Develop this analysis through case studies of one or two sectors.</p>
<p><i>D. Transnational Production Systems.</i> Conduct research on the concept of ‘global commodity chains’, and critically assess how academic debates about this development concept have evolved.</p>	<p><i>H. State-Society-Economy Relations.</i> Conduct research on how state-society-economy relations have evolved over the last 10-20 years in the country of your choice in Asia, Latin America or Africa. This project relates to debates about the ‘developmental state’, and the enhanced impact of neoliberalism.</p>
	<p><i>I. Pharmaceutical Companies, the WTO and the Global South.</i> Conduct research on how the evolving relationships between US-based pharmaceutical companies, the US Government, the WTO, and poor countries in the Global South.</p>

You should treat this research activity as a term-long 'project', one that requires consistent (though incremental) attention. You are welcome to work on this project on an individual basis or in groups of up to ten people in size. I will generate some class activities to facilitate interaction so you can learn what your colleagues are interested in.

Periodic updates regarding your progress will be required on Fridays (sometimes in surprise fashion), as well a draft report and a final report. The draft report is due in class on Friday during Week 10, and the final report is due in class on Friday during Week 15. The actual length of the reports will depend on the size of each group – I will inform you about this once projects have been adopted by all of you. A 10% per hour mark reduction will be applied to all late submissions of the draft and final reports – you have been warned!

There are no exams in this course.

Summary of Weekly Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Course

Week 2: Introduction to Globalization

Week 3: Patterns of Global Shift

Week 4: Discourses of Globalization

Week 5: Scripting Globalization (The State)

Week 6 – Globalization and Regionalisation/Regionalism

Week 7: Mid-term Review

Week 8 – APEC/Pacific Rim Case Studies

Week 9: Scripting Globalization (Transnational Corporations)

Week 10: Scripting Globalization (Transnational Business Networks)

Week 11 – The Regional Motors of the Global Economy

Week 12: Scripting Globalization (Transnational Citizens/Citizenship)

Week 13: Scripting Globalization (Institutions and Entrepreneurialism)

Week 14: Bringing it All Together: 'Assembling the Global Schoolhouse in Pacific Asia' Case Study

Week 15: Course Wrap-Up

Weekly Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1: Introduction to Course

Wednesday 22 January – Overview of Course
Friday 24 January – Group Formation Exercise

Required readings:

Dicken, Chapter 1, pp. 1-15.

Week 2: Introduction to Globalization

Monday 27 January – Lecture
Wednesday 29 January – Discussion of Required Readings
Friday 31 January – Research Practice

Required readings:

Appadurai, A. (1990) 'Disjuncture and difference in the global cultural economy', *Theory, Culture and Society*, 7: 295-310.

Harvey, D. (1989) *The Condition of Postmodernity*, Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 173-188.

Taylor, P., Watts, M., and Johnston, R. (2002) 'Geography/Globalization'

Week 3: Patterns of Global Shift

Monday 3 February – Lecture
Wednesday 5 February – Discussion of Required Readings
Friday 7 February – Research Practice

Required readings:

Dicken, Chapter 2, pp. 19-70.

Dicken, P. (2000) 'Places and flows: Situating international investment'

Skim annual versions of the UNCTAD *World Investment Report* at
<http://www.unctad.org/wir/index.htm>

Week 4: Discourses of Globalization

Monday 10 February – Lecture
Wednesday 12 February – Discussion of Required Readings
Friday 14 February – Research Practice

Required readings:

Gibson-Graham, J.K. (1996) *The End of Capitalism (as we knew it): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy*, Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 120-147.

Sidaway, J.D., and Pryke, M. (2000) 'The strange geographies of "emerging markets"', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 25: 187-201.

Kelly, P. (forthcoming) "Metaphors of meltdown: political representations of economic space in the Asian financial crisis", *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*.

Week 5: Scripting Globalization (The State)

Monday 17 February – Lecture

Wednesday 19 February – Discussion of Required Readings

Friday 21 February – Research Practice

Required readings:

Dicken, Chapter 3, pp. 73-144 (esp. 73-101, and 121-144)

Week 6 – Globalization and Regionalisation/Regionalism

Monday 24 February – Lecture

Wednesday 26 February – Discussion of Required Readings

Friday 28 February – Research Practice

Required readings:

Dicken, pp. 101-114.

Mittelman, J. (2000) *The Globalization Syndrome: Transformation and Resistance*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 111-130.

Wyatt-Walter, A. (1995) 'Regionalism, globalization and world economic order,' in L. Fawcett and A. Hurrell (eds) *Regionalism in World Politics: Regional Organization and International Order*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 74-121.

Week 7: Review

Monday 3 March – Review Lecture

Wednesday 5 March – tba (American Association of Geographers conference)

Friday 7 March – tba (American Association of Geographers conference)

Week 8 – APEC/Pacific Rim Case Studies

Monday 10 March – Lecture

Wednesday 12 March – Discussion of Required Readings

Friday 14 March – Research Practice

Required readings:

APEC Secretariat Website <http://www.apecsec.org.sg>

Dirlik, A. (1992) "The Asia Pacific idea: reality and representation in the invention of a regional structure," *Journal of World History*, 3(1): 55-79.

Higgott, R. (1999) 'The political economy of globalisation in East Asia: the salience of 'region building'', in K. Olds et al (eds) *Globalisation and the Asia-Pacific: Contested Territories*, London: Routledge, pp. 91-106.

Higgott, R., and Stubbs, R. (1995) "Competing conceptions of economic regionalism: APEC versus EAEC in the Asia Pacific," *Review of International Political Economy*, 2(3): 516-535.

Week 9: Scripting Globalization (Transnational Corporations)

Monday 24 March – Lecture

Wednesday 26 March – Discussion of Required Readings

Friday 28 March – Research Practice

Required readings:

Dicken, Chapter 6, pp. 177-200.

Skim annual versions of the UNCTAD *World Investment Report* at <http://www.unctad.org/wir/index.htm>

Week 10: Scripting Globalization (Transnational Business Networks)

Monday 31 March – Lecture

Wednesday 2 April – Discussion of Required Readings

Friday 4 April – Research Practice

Required readings:

Dicken, Chapter 7, pp. 201-242.

Dicken, P., Kelly, P., Olds, K., Yeung, H. (2001) 'Chains and networks, territories and scales: towards an analytical framework for the global economy', *Global Networks*, 1(2): 89-112.

Week 11 – The Regional Motors of the Global Economy

Monday 7 April – Lecture

Wednesday 9 April – Discussion of Required Readings

Friday 11 April – Research Practice

Required readings:

Amin, Ash and Thrift, Nigel (1992), 'Neo-Marshallian nodes in global networks', *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 16(4): 571-587

Scott, A. (1999) "Regional motors of the global economy," in W. Halal and K. Taylor (eds.) *Twenty-First Century Economics: Perspectives of Socioeconomics for a Changing World*, New York: St. Martin's Press, pp. 77-106.

Week 12: Scripting Globalization (Transnational Citizens/Citizenship)

Monday 14 April – Lecture

Wednesday 16 April – Discussion of Required Readings

Friday 18 April – Research Practice

Required readings tba

Week 13: Scripting Globalization (Institutions and Global Entrepreneurialism)

Monday 21 April – Guest Lecture (Henry Yeung)

Wednesday 23 April – Discussion of Required Readings

Friday 25 April – Research Practice

Required readings tba

Week 14: Bringing it All Together: 'Assembling the Global Schoolhouse in Pacific Asia' Case Study

Monday 28 April – Lecture

Wednesday 30 April – Discussion of Required Readings

Friday 2 May – Research Practice

Required readings tba

Week 15: Course Wrap-Up

Monday 5 May – Lecture

Wednesday 7 May – Lecture / Research Practice

Friday 2 May – Research Practice

My overall course policy is to be relaxed and open to discussion, queries, feedback and calls for assistance or advice – do not be shy if you want to speak in class, see me at just before the start or at the end of class, or arrange to meet in my office!