

**San José State University**  
**Department of Geography and Global Studies, SJSU**  
**Geography 117, Advanced Economic Geography, Section-, Fall**  
**Semester, 2016**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Kathrine Richardson
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	(Wednesdays from 1-3)
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	(Tuesday/Thursday, 12-1:15 p.m.)
<b>Classroom</b>	(Clark Hall 224)

**Catalogue Description** – This is an introductory course in advanced Economic Geography that explores the contemporary insights provided by geographers researching various dimensions of economy and space.

**Course Description** – This is an introductory course in advanced economic geography that explores the contemporary insights provided by geographers researching various dimensions of economy and space. It will do so in an innovative way that is oriented in terms of topical selection, content and style. Specifically, we will use a learning approach in which topical questions are posed and debated from an economic-geographical perspective. As a whole, the course will present a case for the importance of geographical insights, in which economic processes are seen as embedded in particular places, in which patterns and flows of economic activity across space are recognized and explained, and in which economic spaces and scales are themselves treated as representations and social constructions. These distinctively geographical sensibilities will place emphasis on “economic lives and landscapes”, which are frequently not explored in traditional economic geography and management studies courses. Thus, you will be introduced to economic geography not as a dry discipline to be toiled over, but as a vibrant and distinctive collection of insights as they apply to the real world.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

**CLO 1** - By the end of this course, a student should be able to develop and research a current topic area in economic geography that stimulates her/his interest and curiosity and write a compelling 8-10 page paper on the topic of interest and a persuasive midterm exam. (This

will be achieved through the term paper and midterm exam)

**CLO 2** - By the end of this course, a student should be able to make an oral argument as to the particular insights and issues regarding her/his term paper topic area through the lens of economic geography. (This will be achieved through the oral presentation of draft term paper.)

**CLO 3** - By the end of this term, a student should be able to effectively discuss and critique theoretical ideas and concepts as they relate to economic geography. (This will be achieved through in class discussion sessions, in class exercises, and midterm exam.)

**CLO 4** - By the end of this term, a student should be able to illustrate these ideas and concepts as they relate to economic geography with examples, vignettes, and case studies drawn from around the world, and from a variety of economic sectors. (This will be achieved through the term paper, short in class writing assignments, in class discussion sessions and in class exercises.)

**Course Credit Hours:** At SJSU, students are expected to spend at least two hours outside of class for every one hour of in-person class time. Because this is a three-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week completing class-related assignments, activities, and exams in addition to the in-person class meetings. These assignments over the duration of the course include weekly readings (~34 hours), the term paper (~30 hours), preparing for in class writing exercises (~12 hours), the final exam (~12 hours), and the field trip (~6 hours). These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 6-hours of work outside the classroom. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbooks

Coe, Neil M., Kelly, Philip F. and Yeung, Henry W.C. (2013), *Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction*, Oxford: Blackwell. You can find it online through Amazon, or at the SJSU Spartan Bookstore.

Dicken, Peter (2015) *Global Shift: Mapping the Changing Contours of the World Economy*, Seventh Edition, London: Guilford Press. You can find it online through Amazon, or at the SJSU Spartan Bookstore.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

**The Term Paper [50%]:** (Course Learning Outcome 1, 2 & 4) You will be required to submit and present one individual research essay for the semester that will contribute to 50% of your grade. The paper should not exceed 2,000 words (~8-10 pages, excluding references and tables). **All essays should be due by noon on Monday, December 19.** The penalty for late submission is one sub-grade per day (i.e. one grade every three days). You will also be required to do a fifteen minute presentation on your topic area towards the end of the term.

The directive for your research essay is to:

Critically evaluate the theoretical and empirical relevance of ONE of the following concepts for understanding a particular economic-geographical phenomenon that occurred in California or elsewhere in the world between 1 July 2010 and October 2016.

Concepts:

- Spatial divisions of labour
- State and TNC relations
- Labour geographies
- Global finance
- Commodity chains
- TNC strategies and global production networks
- Agglomeration and clusters
- Gender Relations
- Ethnic Economies

Your research essay will be assessed on the following criteria (50 total points possible). More details about specific grading criteria (ie. What separates an “A” quality paper from a “B” quality paper will be distributed later in the course.):

1. Originality of arguments (30 points possible): Your essay must go beyond descriptions and you must discuss critically the geographical concept of your choice in relation to your chosen empirical phenomenon. If relevant, you must also critically evaluate arguments proposed by other scholars and researchers in explaining similar phenomenon.
2. Originality of research (15 points possible): You should discuss your data/evidence in order to support your arguments.
3. Your essay should (5 points possible):
  1. Be typed, single sided with 1.5 or double spacing, leaving generous margins for comments to be written.
  2. Identify clearly the particular economic-geographical phenomenon reported in the media (e.g. The San Jose Mercury or the New York Times) and attach the new printout as an appendix.
  3. Commence with an introduction that explains the scope and structure of your critical arguments to be presented. Please also explain the nature/kind of data/evidence to be used in support of your argument(s).
  4. Be written in short paragraphs and divided into several sections with sub headings.
  5. Conclude with a short summary of the main arguments presented.
  6. Include a reference list of all sources cited in the text. Follow the Harvard reference system – author and date given in the text, with the reference in full in a bibliography

**In-Class Exercises** [30%] – (Course Learning Outcomes 3, and 4) These are short individual or group discussions/writing exercises, games and other learning activities that will be given and accomplished once every other week or so in class. At least half of the time will be devoted to

individual writing, group discussion and the rest of the time for class-level presentations, discussions and summarization.

**Midterm: [20%]** (Course Learning Outcomes 1, 3 and 4) There is a midterm exam required for this course – two short essays in response to two exam questions (about 4-5 pages total) that will be based on your learning and understanding of economic geography through the material presented in this class (and other relevant outside experiences). The exam is worth 20 points or 20% of your final grade. **The midterm will be distributed on Thursday, October 6 and will be due in-class on Thursday, October 13.**

### Grading Policy

Overall graded course requirements total 100 points. There is no “curve” for this course. Pluses and minuses are given. You receive the grade you earn through your own work and the effort you put into the class.

Requirement	Possible Points
Term Paper	50
In Class Exercises	30
Midterm Exam	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

### Grade Scale

Percent	Letter Grade	Percent	Letter Grade
95-100	A	77-79	C+
90-94	A-	74-76	C
87-89	B+	70-73	C-
84-86	B	60-69	D
80-83	B-	<60	F

### Classroom Protocol

- **Notes** -- Since lectures complement, rather than duplicate, reading materials, attendance and participation in class are crucial to your learning experience. If you have to miss class due to illness or a family emergency, be sure to find out from a classmate what we covered in class. Please do not email me asking me what you missed.
- **Attendance/Participation:** To benefit fully from the course, attendance and active participation are imperative. The readings are outlined in the course schedule and it is expected that you will read and be familiar with the assigned material before coming to class.
- **Cell Phones** – please turn off your cell phone before entering the classroom and leave them in your backpack. I do not want to *see* or *hear* cell phones during class. Texting in class is also unacceptable.
- **Computer Use** – I do not allow use of laptops, phones, etc. in class for any reason. If you have an iPad or other similar tablet you may use that for taking notes as long as the wireless is turned off.

- **Extensions** – I do not grant extensions for assignments or term papers except in a verifiable emergency situation. All due dates are listed on the syllabus. If you know you will need to miss class when something is due, speak with me about the opportunity to submit your work early. In-class assignments or activities cannot be made up under any circumstances.
- **Arriving late or leaving early** – It is important to be on time, but if you are late, please enter the room quietly and take the first available seat. Get your materials out quietly. I will always end class on time, but often lecture right up to the end of the class period. It is a *huge* distraction when students begin packing up early, making it difficult for others to hear. Thus, I ask you not to get up to leave until class is over. If, for a valid reason, you need to leave early, please sit at the end of a row and leave quietly.

## University Policies

### Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

### University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

## Geography 117, Advanced Economic Geography Course Schedule

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1 8/25	Course Introduction
2 8/30 & 9/1	PART I: CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS A geographical approach to the economy: What do you get if you cross an economist and a geographer? Ch. 1 of both Coe et al. and Dicken
3 9/6 & 9/8	Economic discourse – Does ‘the economy’ really exist? Ch. 2 of both Coe et al. and Dicken, Online documentary: Inside Job

Date	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b></p> <p><i>The follow schedule is subject to change with fair notice by an announcement made in class and through your mySJSU account. Please have the assigned readings done prior to the week that they are assigned.</i></p>
4 9/13 & 9/15	PART II: DYNAMICS OF ECONOMIC SPACE Uneven development – Why is economic growth and development so uneven? Ch. 3 and 9 of Coe et al. and Ch. 16 of Dicken, Detropia Documentary
5 9/20 & 9/22	Commodity chains – Where does your breakfast come from? Ch. 8 and 9 of Coe et al. and Ch. 3 and 9 of Dicken
6 9/27 & 9/29	Technology and agglomeration – Does technology eradicate distance? Ch 9, 12 of Coe et al. and Ch. 4 of Dicken
7 10/4 & 10/6	PART III: ACTORS IN ECONOMIC SPACE The state – who controls the economy: firms or governments? Ch. 4 and 10 of Coe et al. and Ch. 5, 6, and 7 of Dicken <b>Midterm Distributed</b>
8 10/11 & 10/13	Inside Job Documentary <b>Midterm Due in class (10/13)</b>
9 10/18 & 10/20	The transnational corporation – How does the global firm keep it all together? Ch 10 of Coe et al. and Ch. 5 of Dicken
10 10/25 & 10/27	Labour power – can workers shape economic geographies? Ch. 6 of Coe et al. and Ch. 16 of Dicken
11 11/1 & 11/3	PART IV: SOCIALIZING ECONOMIC LIVES Culture and the firm – Do countries and companies have economic cultures? Ch. 10 of Coe et al. and Ch. 5, 10, and 11 of Dicken
12 11/8 & 11/10	Online Documentary: The Smartest Guys in the Room
13 11/15 & 11/17	Gendered economic geographies – Does gender shape economic lives? Ch. 13 of Coe et al.
14 11/22	Ethnic economies – Do cultures have economies? Ch. 13 of Coe et al. and Ch. 5 of Dicken
15 11/29 & 12/1	Silicon Valley or San Francisco Field Trip
16 12/6 & 12/8	Paper Presentations

Date	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The follow schedule is subject to change with fair notice by an announcement made in class and through your mySJSU account. Please have the assigned readings done prior to the week that they are assigned.</i></p>
FINAL Monday, 12/19, Clark Hall 224	In-class discussion and class closure. Final Papers Due by noon in Clark Hall 224.

### Select Bibliography

- Barnes, Trevor, Peck, Jamie and Sheppard, Eric (eds.) (2012), *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Economic Geography*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Tickell, Adam, Sheppard, Eric, Peck, Jamie and Barnes, Trevor (eds.) (2007), *Politics and Practice in Economic Geography*, London: Sage.
- Kitchin, Rob, Thrift, Nigel, Castree, Noel, Crang, Mike, Domosh, Mona, Anderson, Kay, Paul, Crampton, Jeremy, Graham, Brian, Hadjimichalis, Costis, Hubbard, Phil, Kearns, Robin, Kwan, Mei-Po, Lees, Loretta, McLafferty, Sarah, Paasi, Anssi, Philo, C, Sidaway, James, Willis, Katie, and Yeung, Henry (eds.) (2009), *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, 12 Volumes, Elsevier. [Electronic version available via LINC]