

**Hofstra University**  
**Department of Global Studies & Geography**



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# **GEOG 135 – Economic Geography**

## **Objectives and Learning Goals**

Geography 135 introduces students to economic geography. In particular, this course looks at how geographic and economic conditions affect the products, industries, commerce and resources in a variety of regions. Students will learn the concepts, theories, and methodologies used by geographers to analyze economic change. The course begins with an examination of population and resources, followed by a thorough study of basic location theory for primary, secondary and tertiary industries. Then we will move on to study the role of geography in the modern global economy, particularly as it relates to local, regional, national, and international economic growth and development.

The general goals of the course are:

- Students will be provided with an introduction to theoretical and practical concepts of economic geography.
- Students will understand how geographic and economic conditions affect products, industries, commerce and resources of the world.
- Explain the role of population and natural resources in regional growth and change.
- Students will be able to understand economic processes such as globalization, trade and transportation and their impacts on economic, cultural and social activities.
- Students will understand the fundamental concepts of spatial interaction and diffusion, which explain how human activities are influenced by the concept of distance.

## **Requirements**

GEOG 135 is part of Hofstra's distribution requirements in social sciences. The material draws from issues related to economics, political science, the environment and geography, among others. This means that as per the guidelines for distribution classes at Hofstra, this class requires a large amount of reading (at least 1,200 pages) and has a set of writing requirements (4,500 words). Students entering this class should thus be aware that they are expected to do all the readings and be able to write well-structured class projects. Poor written work will be penalized; any students who feel that their writing is not up to an acceptable standard should seek immediate help from the writing laboratory in Mason Hall.

## **Responsibilities**

Respective responsibilities are as follows:

- The Professor's responsibilities. Provide the most up to date and accurate information concerning the class topics. Create a challenging learning environment where the students

are exposed to new concepts and ideas. Be available (virtually and physically) to answer questions and discuss issues. Provide a fair and transparent evaluation of the students' work.

- The Student's responsibilities. Class attendance is the basic student's responsibility. Participation in class discussions constitutes an important dimension of the learning process in a subject where issues, rather than the mere learning of factual material, are the focus. Students are encouraged (and expected) to verbalize their ideas and views on the issues to be discussed. Students are also responsible for reading the required material before going to class and handing the assignments at the expected deadline.

### Evaluations

Several means will be utilized for evaluating students' performance in the course. Three examinations appear on the schedule of class activities. The examinations will emphasize written work and the extent the students understand the core concepts introduced. Class participation or its absence will also be assessed and factored in to the semester grade. In addition, each student will be responsible for developing two class projects.

You can accumulate in this class up to 100 points. Here is the breakdown of the point value of each item you will be evaluated on:

- Examination 1. 20 points.
- Examination 2. 20 points.
- Examination 3. 20 points.
- 2 class projects. 40 points (20 points each).
- Class attendance and participation. 5 points (bonus).

The 2 class projects, of about 6-8 pages each, are concerning the following:

- **Media review.** A review of selected current events related to economic geography.
- **Research project.** An in depth analysis of a selected dimension of economic geography.

### Grades

To successfully complete this class, you need to accumulate 60 points:

<b>(A)</b> 92 points and above.	<b>(C)</b> Between 74 and 76 points.
<b>(A-)</b> Between 89 and 91 points.	<b>(C-)</b> Between 70 and 73 points.
<b>(B+)</b> Between 86 and 88 points.	<b>(D+)</b> Between 65 and 69 points.
<b>(B)</b> Between 83 and 87 points.	<b>(D)</b> Between 60 and 64 points.
<b>(B-)</b> Between 80 and 82 points.	<b>(F)</b> Below 60 points.
<b>(C+)</b> Between 77 and 79 points.	

Grades are non negotiable and the only way a grade will be revised is if an error was made in the evaluation process. An A is considered a reward for exceptional work, and as such will not be awarded lightly. Test material will be based on both the assigned readings and material covered during lectures. In order to gain a firm grasp of the issues discussed in class, it is imperative that students complete the required readings before class. This amounts to about 80 pages per week, including course notes.

## Penalties

Examination dates will not be changed and make-up exams will not be given except under the most compelling circumstances. A student who missed an exam is required to submit appropriate documentation before any special arrangement may be made. Without proper documentation, a student will receive a zero point for a “no-show” exam. No incomplete will be granted for this course.

Late assignments will be penalized as follows: 10% of the total points for the assignment will be deducted for each day the paper is handed in late (beginning immediately after 5 PM on due day). No assignment will be accepted 5 days after the due date. Failure to turn in assignments will adversely affect grades.

## Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is a serious ethical and professional infraction. Hofstra’s policy on academic honesty reads: “The academic community assumes that work of any kind [...] is done, entirely, and without assistance, by and only for the individual(s) whose name(s) it bears.” Please refer to the “Procedure for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University for details about what constitutes plagiarism, and Hofstra’s procedures for handling violations.

## Disabilities Policy

If you believe you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, qualified individuals with disabilities will not be discriminated against in any programs, or services available at Hofstra University. Individuals with disabilities are entitled to accommodations designed to facilitate full access to all programs and services. SSD is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will provide students with documented disabilities accommodation letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact SSD as soon as possible. All students are responsible for providing accommodation letters to each instructor and for discussing the specific accommodations needed and how they can be best implemented in each course.

For more information on services provided by the university and for submission of documentation, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities, 212 Memorial Hall, 516-463-7075.

## Outline

### Topic 1 – Overview of Economic Geography

*Approaching Economic Geography; Theories in Economic Geography; Globalization; Economic Development.*

### Topic 2 – Historical Developments of Capitalism

*Feudalism and Capitalism; The Industrial Revolution; Colonialism and its Demise.*

### Topic 3 – Population

*Population Distribution and Structure; Demographic Theory; Migration.*

### Topic 4 – Natural Resources

*Types of Resources; Energy; Mineral Resources.*

**Topic 5 – Location Theory**

*Location Factors; Integration, Diversification and Scale; Cycles.*

**Topic 6 – Agriculture and Food Production**

*The Physical Factors; Agricultural Production; Feeding the World.*

**Topic 7 – Location of Manufacturing**

*Manufacturing Clusters; Manufacturing Systems; Advanced Manufacturing.*

**Topic 8 – Location of Services**

*The Growth of the Service Sector; Financial Services; Consumer Services.*

**Topic 9 – Transportation and Communication**

*Transportation Networks; Transport Costs; Telecommunications.*

**Topic 10 – International Trade**

*Comparative Advantages; Trade Barriers and Trade Facilitation; Global Trade Patterns.*

**Bibliography****Required Reading**

Jean-Paul Rodrigue, Claude Comtois and Brian Slack (2009) *The Geography of Transport Systems*, Second Edition, New York: Routledge, 284 pages.

Frederick P. Stutz and Barney Warf (2012) *The World Economy: Resources, Location, Trade, and Development*, 6th Edition. Prentice Hall, Saddle River, NJ. **Please buy this book on Amazon or download it in an ebook format.**

**Additional Reading**

Dicken, P. (2007) *Global Shift: Mapping the Changing Contours of the World Economy*, 5th Edition, London: Sage Publications.

Urry, J. (2003) *Global Complexity*, Malden, MA: Blackwell, 184 pages.