**GEOGRAPHY 110: ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD**

**Professor Desiree Fields**

**Spring 2020**

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**Each week I set aside these hours to meet with students**: Tuesdayand Thursday, 3-5pm

This class is about the spatiality of the economy, which amounts to nothing less than the reproduction of human and non-human existence. We examine the fundamentally geographic nature of our current, historically unique system of material reproduction—capitalism—and how these logics have shaped places and forms of life over the course of the system’s growth and change. We will explore how capitalism as a *process* has produced interconnected spaces: cities, national markets, industrial regions, more and less ‘disposable’ resource peripheries, modern nation-states, and other territorial forms. We will investigate how these processes have reconfigured ecological systems, human social relations, geographic divisions of labor, cultural forms, and physiology itself. We will track capitalism’s constant geographic instability and “creative destruction”; the transformation of places and the relationships between places; geographic and geopolitical competition; and capital flight and the abandonment of some places alongside the reworking of others. We will explore how these processes shape the rise—and inevitable fall—of places, techniques, social worlds, and divisions of labor, and pay close attention to the power relations and spatial organization that accompany them. We will use historical lessons to understand contemporary issues, and, most importantly, we will foreground how struggles over our material and social reproduction are decisive for the future of planetary habitability.

**Course Objectives**

Students who complete the course will be able to:

* Explain and discuss key concepts and theories in economic geography, as well as their history and relevance to specific places
* Critically reflect on the economy, economic processes and economic geography as a discipline
* Work independently and collaboratively to analyze issues of space-economy in written and oral communication
* Recognize and interpret different forms of information about the economy (e.g. charts, graphs, and maps)

**Course requirements:**

Completion of all course components is necessary in order to receive a passing grade.

1. **Section participation (30% of final grade):**

This portion of your grade is equally divided between participation in discussion and in-class writing exercises. Participation includes actions such as asking substantive or clarifying (e.g. “I didn’t understand the part about…”) questions, responding to and building on a point someone else has made, consciously introducing a new but relevant topic to the discussion, summarizing key points in the discussion, or sharing relevant newspaper articles with the class. In-class writing exercises will be used to shape group discussions, e.g. students may be asked to generate a discussion question based on a specific reading. While you will not lose points for failing to attend section, if you habitually miss section your participation grade will suffer.

1. **Term project: The Space-Economy Podcast, Season I (40% of final grade):**

The term project is not a conventional research paper, but a collaboratively produced podcast on a theme or topic relevant to the space-economy. The project includes equally-weighted individual and group components:

* Individual: two pieces of writing linked to the podcast production process (20% of your final grade)
* Group: 5-10 minute audio segment (20% of your final grade; same mark for all group members).

Time will be set aside during section for project work and consultation. A guest lecturer from the Graduate School of Journalism will provide an overview of approaches to podcasting as you get ready to record content. A separate handout will explain the project more fully.

1. **Final exam (30% of final grade):**

**Textbooks:**

Readings from these texts will be listed with the title of the book under the relevant weeks.

1. Trevor Barnes and Brett Christophers, *Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction* (2018). This textbook is strongly suggested. While we won’t use it every week, we will use it regularly. *You should buy this book*.
2. Derek Gregory, Ron Johnston, Geraldine Pratt, Michael J. Watts, and Sarah Whatmore, *The Dictionary of Human Geography 5th edition* (2009). This book is a very handy reference for all things human geography, and is available as an electronic resource in OskiCat, so *you don’t need to purchase it (unless you want to).*

**PART I – FOUNDATIONS**

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS: ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY AND INVENTING THE ECONOMY**

***Core reading:***

*Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction:* Chapter 1 (What is Economic Geography), pages 25-49

Timothy Mitchell (1996). Fixing the Economy. *Cultural Studies,* 12(1), 82-101

***Suggested reading:***

*The Dictionary of Human Geography*: economy, page 184-185; economic geography, pages 178-81; industrial geography, pages 376-8; industrial revolution” pages 378-9; industrialization, page 379; space-economy, pages 710-11

Jenny Cameron and J.K. Gibson-Graham (2003). Feminising the Economy: Metaphors, strategies, politics. *Gender, Place, and Culture*, 10(2), 145-157.

**WEEK 2: ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY PAST AND PRESENT**

***Core reading:***

*Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction:* Chapter 2 (Inventing Economic Geography: Histories of a Discipline), pages 50-75

Emily Rosenman, Jessa Loomis, and Kelly Kay (2019). Diversity, representation, and the limits of engaged pluralism in (economic) geography. *Progress in Human Geography.*

***Suggested reading:***

Robert Hassink, Huiwen Gong, and Pedro Marques (2019). Moving Beyond Anglo-American Economic Geography. *International Journal of Urban Sciences,* 23(2)*,* 149-169.

* Responses to Hassink et al. in same issue of *International Journal of Urban Sciences*, especially from van Meeteren, Zhu and He.

**WEEK 3: THEORETICAL APPROACHES I: CLASSICAL ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY: LOCATION THEORY AND REGIONAL SCIENCE**

***Core reading:***

Walter Isard (1956). *Location and Space Economy*, pages 1-23 **(especially 1-15)**

Allen Scott, *Regions and the World Economy* (1997), pp. 75-100 **(especially 75-85, 94-100)**

***Suggested reading:***

*The Dictionary of Human Geography*: agglomeration, page 14; central place theory, page 76; location theory, pages 426-8;

Trevor Barnes (2015). Notes from the Underground: Why the History of Economic Geography Matters: The Case of Central Place Theory. *Economic Geography,* 88(1), 1-26.

Niles Hansen (1977). Border Regions: A Critique of Spatial Theory and a European Case Study. *The Annals of Regional Science,* 11(1), 1-14.

**WEEK 4:** **THEORETICAL APPROACHES II: INSTITUTIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

***Core reading:***

Karl Polanyi (2001 [1944]). *The Great Transformation*, pages 71-80

Mark Granovetter 1985). Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness. *American Journal of Sociology,* 91(3), 481-510 (**especially pages 481-7, 504-8**)

Martijn Konings (2015). Anti-Polanyi. *Progress in Political Economy* blog. <http://ppesydney.net/anti-polanyi/>

***Suggested reading:***

Patrick Iber and Mike Konczal (2016). Karl Polanyi for President. *Dissent.* <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/karl-polanyi-explainer-great-transformation-bernie-sanders>

Marianna Mazzucato (2011). *The Entrepreneurial State* (Chapter 2: Beyond Market Failures, pages 47-62). Demos. <https://www.demos.co.uk/files/Entrepreneurial_State_-_web.pdf>

Karl Polanyi (2001 [1944]). *The Great Transformation*, pages 141-157

Margaret Somers and Fred Block (2014). The Return of Karl Polanyi. *Dissent.* <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/the-return-of-karl-polanyi>

**WEEK 5:** **THEORETICAL APPROACHES III: MARXIAN POLITICAL ECONOMY**

***Core reading:***

*Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction:* Chapter 8 (Globalization and Uneven development), pages 187-210

David Harvey (1975). The Geography of Capitalist Accumulation: A Reconstruction of the Marxian Theory. *Antipode*, 7(2), 9-21.

David Harvey (2001). Globalization and the “Spatial Fix. *Geographische Revue*, January 2001, 23-30. <https://publishup.uni-potsdam.de/opus4-ubp/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/2251/file/gr2_01_Ess02.pdf>

***Suggested reading:***

*The Dictionary of Human Geography*: uneven development, pages 780-82

Erica Schoenberger (2004). The spatial fix revisited. *Antipod*e, 36(3), pp.427-433.

Jackie Wang (2018). Racialized Accumulation by Dispossession in the Age of Finance Capital: Notes on the debt economy (99-150) (**only pages 99-112, section on primitive accumulation**).

**WEEK 6: THEORETICAL APPROACHES IV: RE-UNIVERSALIZING THEORY?**

***Core reading:***

Gargi Bhattacharyya (2018). Beginning (**pages 10-18 only**). In: *Rethinking Racial Capitalism: Questions of Reproduction and Survival.*

Cedric Robinson (2000 [1983]). Racial Capitalism: The nonobjective character of capitalist development. In: *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition* (pages 9-28).

Marion Werner, Kendra Strauss, Brenda Parker, Reecia Orzeck, Kate Derickson, Anne Bonds (2017). Feminist Political Economy in Geography: Why now, what is different, what for? *Geoforum,* 79, 1-4.

***Suggested reading:***

*The Dictionary of Human Geography:* universalism, page 782

*Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction:* Chapter 5 (Theory and Theories in Economic Geography), **pages 107-117 only** (sections 5.1-5.3)

Adam Bledsoe and Willie Jamaal Wright (2018). The anti-Blackness of global capital. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space.*

Cindi Katz (1996). Towards Minor Theory. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space,* 14(4), 487-499.

**PART II – CASE STUDIES**

**WEEK 7: COMMODITIES, NATURE, EXTRACTION**

***Core reading:***

William Cronon, *Nature’s Metropolis* (1991), pp. 97-147 **(104-32)**

Jason Moore and Raj Patel (2017). #7CheapThings: Cheap Nature. UC Press blog: <https://www.ucpress.edu/blog/30349/7cheapthings-cheap-nature/>

Scott Prudham, *Knock on Wood* (2005), pp. 57-84

***Suggested reading:***

Sandro Mezzadra and Brett Neilson (2017). On the Multiple Frontiers of Extraction: Excavating contemporary capitalism. *Cultural Studies,* 31(2-3), 185-204 (**especially sections on “Landscapes of extraction” and “Beyond literal extraction” 188-196).**

Anna Tsing (2004). *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection* (pages 27-50, **especially 27-40)** *.* Princeton University Press.

**WEEK 8: THE DIVISION OF LABOR**

**Core reading:**

Nancy Fraser (2016). Contradictions of Capital and Care. *New Left Review,* 100 (July/August), 99-117. <https://newleftreview.org/II/100/nancy-fraser-contradictions-of-capital-and-care>

Doreen Massey, *Spatial Divisions of Labor* (1984), pp. 65-120 **(65-80, 96-107**

Melissa Wright, *Disposable Women and Other Myths of Global Capitalism* (2006), pp. 45-69 **(especially 50-62)**

**Suggested reading:**

The *Dictionary of Human Geography*: Division of labour, page 169-70; social reproduction, page 697

Harry Braverman, *Labor and Monopoly Capital* (1999 [1974]), pp. 31-58, 96-104 **(49-58, 96-104)**

Carmen Teeple Hopkins (2015). Introduction: Feminist geographies of social reproduction and race. Women’s Studies International Forum, 48, 135-140.

Faranak Mirfatab (2011). Faraway Intimate Development: Global restructuring of social reproduction. *Journal of Planning Education and Research,* 31(4), 392-405.

Evelyn Nakano Glenn (1992). From Servitude to Service Work: Historical continuities in the racial division of paid reproductive labor. *Signs,* 18(1), 1-42 (**especially 1-6, 19-23, 31-34**).

**WEEK 9: GEOGRAPHIES OF PRODUCTION**

**Core reading:**

*Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction:* Chapter 12 (Industrial and Technological Change), **pages 282-294 only** (sections 12.1-12.2)

Jenny Chan, Pun Ngai and Mark Selden (2013). The Politics of Global Production: Apple, Foxconn and China’s New Working Class. *New Technology, Work, and Employment,* 28(2), 100-115.

Gary Gereffi and Joonkoo Lee (2005). Why the World Suddenly Cares About Global Supply Chains. *Journal of Supply Chain Management,* 48(3), 24-32 **(only 24-29)**

Walter Johnson (2013). King Cotton’s Long Shadow. *The New York Times.* <https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/03/30/king-cottons-long-shadow/>

**Suggested reading:**

Alfred Chandler (1984). The Emergence of Managerial Capitalism. *The Business History Review,* 58(4), 473-503 **(especially pages 473-491 up to “The United States”, and 502-503, “Conclusion”)**

Matthew Desmond (2019). In order to understand the brutality of American capitalism, you have to start on the plantation. The 1619 Project. *The New York Times Magazine.* <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/slavery-capitalism.html>

Schoenberger, E. (1988). From Fordism to flexible accumulation: technology, competitive strategies, and international location. *Environment and Planning D*, 6(3), 245-262.

**WEEK 10: GEOGRAPHIES OF CIRCULATION**

**Core reading:**

Xiang Biao (2006). *Global ‘Body Shopping’: The Indian Labor System in the Information Technology Industry* pp. 1-23, 100-115 **(1-11, 14-23, 104-109)**

Martin Danyluk (2018). Capital’s Logistical Fix: Accumulation, globalization, and the survival of capitalism. *Environment and Planning D; Society and Space,* 36(4), 630-647.

Alexis Madrigal & Jonathan Hirsch, *Containers* [podcast] (2017), available at: <https://soundcloud.com/containersfmg> (**Eps. 1, 2, 7, and 8)**

**Suggested reading:**

Charmaine Chua, Martin Danyluk, Debroah Cowen, Laleh Khalili (2018). Turbulent Circulaitons: Building a Critical Engagement with Logistics. *Environment and Planning D; Society and Space,* 36(4), 617-629 (**617-624 only**).

David Golumbia (2015). The Amazonization of Everything. *Jacobin.* <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/08/amazon-google-facebook-privacy-bezos/>

**WEEK 11: CITIES AND REGIONS**

**Core reading:**

John Logan and Harvey Molotch (1997). *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*, pages 17-50 **(23-34, 39-48)**

Richard Florida (2014). The Creative Class and Economic Development. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 28(3), 196-205.

Saskia Sassen (2004). The Global City: Introducing a Concept, pages 27-43 **(27-38).** *Brown Journal of World Affairs,* 11.

Allen Scott and Michael Storper (2015). The Nature of Cities: The Scope and Limits of Urban Theory. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research,* 39(1), 1-15 (**especially pages 4-9**, up to section on “The scope and limits of the urban”)

**Suggested reading:**

*Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction:* Chapter 10 (Cities and Urbanization), pages 235-260.

You-Tien Hsing, *The Great Urban Transformation: The Politics of Land and Property in China* (2010), 1-29 **(1-3, 7-19)**

Richard Walker (1981). A Theory of Suburbanization: Capitalism and the Construction of Urban Space in the United States. In: Urbanization and Urban Planning in Capitalist Society (eds. Michael Dear and Allen Scott).

**WEEK 12: FINANCE, FINANCIALIZATION, DEBT**

**Core reading:**

*Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction:* Chapter 9 (Money and Finance), pages 211-234 (**especially 211-223)**.

K-Sue Park (2016). Money, Mortgages, and the Conquest of America. *Law and Social Inquiry,* 41(4), 1006-1035 (**especially 1006-1029**)

C.S. Ponder and Mikael Omstedt (2019). The Violence of Municipal Debt: from interest rate swaps to racialized harm in the Detroit water crisis. *Geoforum.*

Brett Christophers (2018). Financialization as Monopoly Profit: The Case of US Banking. *Antipode,* 50(4), 864-890 **(especially 866-873, “Financialization as Profit(ability)”)**

**Suggested reading:**

Zenia Kish and Justin Leroy (2015). Bonded Life. *Cultural Studies*, 29(5-6), 630-651.

Emily Rosenman (2019). The geographies of social finance: Poverty regulation through the ‘invisible heart’ of markets. *Progress in Human Geography*, 43(1), 141-162.

Josh Ryan-Collins, J. (2012). *Where does money come from?* (**pages 1-7**) London: New Economics Foundation. <https://neweconomics.org/uploads/files/b847162e8c996d5e26_fam6bqdx4.pdf>

**WEEK 13: LABOR IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

**Core reading:**

Julie Yujie Chen (2018). Thrown Under the Bus and Outrunning It! The logic of Didi and taxi drivers’ labor and activism in the on-demand economy. *New Media and Society,* 20(8), 2691-2711.

Steven Vallas (2019), Platform Capitalism: What’s at Stake for Workers?. *New Labor Forum*, 28(1), 48-59

Niels van Doorn (2017). Platform labor: on the gendered and racialized exploitation of low-income service work in the ‘on-demand’ economy

**Suggested reading:**

Nick Srincek (2017). *Platform Capitalism*: Chapter 2 **(especially pages 36-48 and 88-92**)

Julia Ticona, Alexandra Mateescu, and Alex Rosenblatt (2018). Beyond Disruption: How Tech Shapes Labor Across Domestic Work and Ridehailing. *Data and Society.* <https://datasociety.net/output/beyond-disruption/>

Birgitta Bergvall-Kåreborn and Debra Howcroft (2014). Amazon Mechanical Turk and the commodification of labor. *Technology, Work, and Employment,* 29(3), 213-223.

**WEEK 14: POSSIBILITIES FOR OTHERWISE?**

**Core reading:**

J.K. Gibson-Graham and Gerda Roelvink (2011). The nitty gritty of creating alternative economies. *Social Alternatives*, 30(1), 29-33.

Erik Olin Wright (2015). How to be an Anticapitalist Today. *Jacobin.* <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/12/erik-olin-wright-real-utopias-anticapitalism-democracy/>

Richard White and Colin Williams (2016). Beyond Capitalocentrism: Are Non-capitalist Work Practices ‘Alternatives’?. *Area,* 48(3), 325-331.

**Suggested reading:**

Kate Aronoff, Alyssa Battistoni, Daniel Aldana Cohen, Thea Riofrancos (2019). A Green New Deal to Win Back our Future. *Jacobin.* <https://jacobinmag.com/2019/02/green-new-deal-climate-change-policy>

Tithi Bhattacharya (2019). Three Ways a Green new Deal can Promote Life over Capital. *Jacobin.* <https://jacobinmag.com/2019/06/green-new-deal-social-care-work>

Scholz, Trebor (2014). Platform Cooperativism vs. the Sharing Economy. *Medium*. [https://medium.com/@trebors/platform-cooperativism-vs-the-sharing-economy-2ea737f1b5ad](https://medium.com/%40trebors/platform-cooperativism-vs-the-sharing-economy-2ea737f1b5ad)

**WEEK 15: R/R/R WEEK**

**WEEK 16: EXAM**