

**American University – Central Asia**  
**Department of Economics**  
**The Geography of the World Economy**  
**Spring Semester, 2014**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Course objective is to introduce students with the scope and complexity of the world economic geography. At the first part of the course we will establish the salient patterns in the world's economic landscapes and review alternative theoretical approaches to understanding the development of these patterns. Second, we will trace the emergence of the world's core economies, following their different paths towards increasing scale and complexity with case histories that illuminate many of the patterns, models and theories. Third based on the knowledge of the first part course will examine the spatial transformation of the core and periphery, paying special attention to the changing relationship between core and periphery. In the concluding part, the course will examine some of the reactions to the emergence of ever larger and more powerful economic forces and the time-space compression that have come to characterize the world economy.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Globalization and Diversity, Geography of a Changing World, Third edition, Rowntree, Lewis. Price and Wyckoff

Related websites:

- Association of American Geographers: <http://www.aag.org>
- Central Intelligence Agency of the United States: <http://www.odci.gov>
- Global Trade Watch: <http://www.citizen.org/trade>
- Globalization: <http://www.emory.edu/SOC/globalization/>
- Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers: <http://www.rgs.org?RGS/>

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There will be two exams (a mid-term and a final) and one project. Course grade will be determined as follows:

#	Item	Share
1	Mid-Term Exam	25%
2	Final Exam	25%
3	Attendance/Presentation	25%
4	Project	25%

**EXAMS.** Exams are comprehensive and cumulative. Any material in the readings or discussed in class is fair game for the exams. The format for the exams will include multiple choice, short answer and essay. Make-up exams will be filed with the Department of Economics office, and will be monitored by office personnel. Make-up exams will have an all-essay format.

**IN CLASS REQUIREMENTS:**

1. No cell phones (Silence your cell phone)
2. Students are not allowed to enter the classroom after the beginning of the lecture/seminar

**A NOTE ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

Cheating is a significance offense against AUCA's academic policy, the university, and your fellow classmates. Cheating will merit, at a minimum, a zero for a grade on the assignment. Further actions may be warranted and will be determined by the professor on a case-by-case basis and *very likely may include a grade of "F" for **the class**.*

**PROJECT.** You are expected to complete a term project. Details are provided in a separate handout. Late papers will be penalized substantially.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Rowntree</b>
Week 1	Globalization and diversity The changing Global Environment	1,2
Week 3	North America, Latin America	3, 4
Week 5	The Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa	6,7
Week 7	Europe, Russian Domain	8,9
Week 9	<b>Midterm exam</b>	
Week 11	Central Asia, East Asia	10, 11
Week 13	South Asia, Southeast Asia	12,13
Week 13	<b>Project submission</b>	
Week 15	Australia and Oceania	14
	<b>Final Exam</b>	

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**Grading Scale**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Score</b>
“A”	94-100
“A-”	90-93
“B+”	87-89
“B”	84-86
“B-”	80-83
“C+”	77-79
“C”	74-76
“C-”	70-73
“D+”	67-69
“D”	64-66
“D-”	60-63
“F”	59

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To gain a deeper understanding of a specific issues in the Kyrgyzstan's economic geography or a better understanding of the theoretical concepts, a field research project is required for this course. You should keep the Instructor informed of the progress of your project and any changes that you need to make.

You must pick a specific region from the list provided by instructor to study in depth. Your goal is to fully evaluate its past, present and recommend changes as you deem appropriate. You should interview at least two people in the selected sector who have knowledge on this sector, in addition to reading additional sources on the topic and integrating course material.

*The elements of the paper must include, at a minimum:*

1. A broad overview of the Oblast (history, culture, religion, language, ethnicity, etc.)
2. Natural resources
3. Growth rate (GDP, Per capita GDP)
4. Industrial Structure (National Accounts) of the Oblast. Value added and employment by industrial sectors.
5. An in-depth discussion of the history and present situation of the regional economy in the Oblast you intend to focus on
6. Regional development strategies
7. The comparative advantages of the oblast in terms of economic development

**General Points**

1. Your project must present an argument. A simple description is not sufficient. A concise description is necessary, but is incomplete without a policy recommendation. The recommendation discussion should represent a large portion of your paper.
2. The recommendation must be within the realm of possibility - you cannot take the position of President for a day, for example. However, it is reasonable to present an argument that law forces selected industries to act in certain ways. And because of this, the financial intermediary should work with financial intermediaries other to convince the legislature to change the law.
3. Your recommendations must be specific. In the example above, your recommendation would need to include specific points in the law that need to be lobbied on.
4. The text of the paper (excluding bibliography and charts) should be no shorter than 10 pages and no longer than 20.
5. A bibliography is mandatory. Footnotes are the preferred method if notes are necessary.
6. At least five academic references must be cited.
7. Grammar, spelling, punctuation and clarity of writing count substantially in your grade.
8. Late papers will be penalized substantially.
9. **You must provide a written and verbal update on Week 9.** This update should describe your topic area and your progress. It must be specific. Your written update should be one page, single-spaced. Your verbal update should be no more than two minutes long and will be given from your desk. This is an informal update, but necessary to ensure that everyone has made some progress on the project.
10. The project will be grades as follows:
  - Usefulness of the recommendation 35%
  - Well-reasoned and well-written argument 65%

11. ALL papers are due Week 13.