**Geography 106 Economic Geography**

Instructor: Michael S. McGlade, Ph.D.

Class Location: HSS 110A Class Meets: MW 10-11:50

Office: HSS 211 Phone 838-8381

Office Hrs: M 12-3, TH 10-12 & by appointment

E-mail: mcgladm@wou.edu course website: <http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm>

Course Overview: Description and explanation of geographic patterns of economic activity and human well-being are the primary foci of this course. Main topics include population and health geography, development, resources, and energy. Throughout the course, international comparisons are used to increase awareness and illustrate concepts. The importance of technology change is a persistent theme.

Course Goals: Explain how economic activities are located and organized in space Explain how interregional differences in economic well-being may come about, and how such processes affect your own daily life and professional plans; and Develop conceptual, analytical, and critical thinking skills that will be useful for courses in geography, and in other branches of the social sciences as well. Goals align with the following Geography program outcomes: [PO2] Interpret the interrelationships between people, space and place. [PO3] Analyze human-environment relations.

Readings:

-All readings will be available electronically, unless otherwise noted. See calendar on reverse side for dates of readings. For updates and reading questions for this course, see <http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm>

Course Requirements: Three examinations (300 pts.), two projects (30 pts. each), and various announced or unannounced quizzes (4-8 pts. each) will be the primary means of evaluation in this course. Instructions for doing the projects will be given in class. Quizzes may cover any notes given prior to the quiz, the readings listed on the syllabus on or before the day of the quiz, and any other reading materials made available prior to the day of the quiz. The readings will generally relate to classroom lectures and activities, although some will go beyond what is covered in the classroom. Some reading questions will be made available as the term progresses. Your answers to the reading questions will not need to be turned in; however, they will assist you with exam questions.

Exams: consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Your highest score will be weighted as 1.2 times a regular test, the lowest score 0.8 times a normal test. This will “soften” the effects of a poor exam, and reward you for an excellent one. All material covered in class as well as that in the readings will be the basis for the examinations. No make-up examinations will be given except in the most unusual of circumstances, and should be arranged prior to the exam being missed. Every attempt will be made to stick to the exam schedule dates found on the reverse side of this page. The third exam will not be comprehensive.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Percent |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89.9 |
| C | 70-79.9 |
| D | 60-69.9 |
| F | <60 |

**Tentative Topics & Schedule\***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dates | Topics | | Readings\* |
| January 9, 11 | Introductory Concepts, Population Geography | | <http://www.prb.org/pdf/PopHandbook_Eng.pdf>  pp. 5-19, 25-30, 41-54. This material for reference only – to clarify concepts that you may not understand from lectures.  Population: a Lively Introduction <http://www.prb.org/pdf07/62.1LivelyIntroduction.pdf>  Reading questions on class website: [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm) |
| January 18, 23, 25  (Jan 16 holiday) | Population, Health, Demographic Transition | | <http://www.prb.org/pdf06/60.4GlobalDemographicDivide.pdf>  pp. 1-22.  Reading questions on class website: [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm) |
| **January 30** | Project due | |  |
| **February 1** | Exam #1 | |  |
| February 6 – February 20 | Development | | UN 2003 Human Development Report: (Chapter 3 only)  find in required folder for development unit of the class at [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm)  Some reading questions will be posted on the class web site.  Other materials will be announced in class |
| **February 22** | **Exam #2** | |  |
| February 27-March 15 | Resources and Energy  Project to be announced | | Ken Zweibel, James Mason, and Vasilis Pthenakis, A grand solar plan, Scientific American, pp. 64-73. Volume 298, Number 1, January 2008.  <http://www.science.smith.edu/~jcardell/Readings/uGrid/Solar_Plan_08.pdf>  Also see required readings folder! <http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm> |
| **Friday, March 24**  **10-11:50** | | **Exam #3**  **(no exceptions to timing)** |  |

\*other reading may be assigned in addition to what is listed in this syllabus, up to 80 pages. All material on syllabus is subject to change. Check class website for latest version of syllabus:[www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm)

Any student who feels that she or he may need an accommodation for any type of disability should talk me during office hours the first week of the course and/or should contact the Office of Disability Services (838-8250v/tty).

Student Success Concerns:

If the instructor determines your performance in this class is placing you at academic risk, you may be referred to a member of the Student Success Team. A student success specialist will offer to work with you to address issues and develop a student success strategy. Regardless of whether a referral has or has not been made, you are ultimately responsible for tracking your own progress in this course. If you would like to meet with a student success specialist regarding any academic struggles you are experiencing, please contact the Academic Advising and Learning Center at 503-838- 8428 or at studentsuccess@wou.edu.

Student Absence Notification:

If for some reason you are absent due to an extenuating circumstance or medical situation, the instructor may ask you to report the incident through official channels before making exceptions to missed or late work. For more information on how to submit a student absence notification request, please contact the Academic Advising and Learning Center at 503-838- 8428 or at studentsuccess@wou.edu.