**Geography 106 Economic Geography (online)**

Summer 2018

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Course Overview:

Description and explanation of geographic patterns of economic activity, sustainability, 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.

Course Goals:

-Explain how economic activities are located and organized in space

-Explain how interregional differences in economic well-being and sustainability may come about

-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 Geography program outcomes: [PO2] Interpret the interrelationships between people, space and place. [PO3] Analyze human-environment relations.

Required Textbook:

Jeffrey D. Sachs (2015). The Age of Sustainable Development. NY: Columbia University Press.

Activities:

Readings, documentaries, forums, quizzes, and a special project are core activities. Students will need to gain access to two films: For week 2 *Inequality for All* (Reich), and *This Changes Everything* (Klein) near end of term. Some possible sources are iTunes and Amazon Prime. All video will be Moodle linked without student cost except Reich and Klein, as mentioned above. Weighting of graded material: forums (15%), quizzes (60%), and special project (25%).

All quizzes must be taken Sunday evening from 8:30-9:30 p.m., except for the last week, which will be Thursday August 3, anytime. The lowest quiz score will be dropped to accommodate situations when students cannot take a quiz at the scheduled time. If you miss a quiz, that will be considered your lowest score and it will be dropped. Don’t miss a quiz intentionally as unforeseen circumstances could later prevent you from taking yet another quiz, with grade consequences. The project will explore an aspect of sustainability across a number of countries. Details will eventually appear in Moodle.

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| Letter Grade | Percent |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | Below 60 |

SCHEDULE\*

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| DAYS | TOPICS | RESOURCES |
| Week 1  June 25 - July 1  **Quiz July 1 8:30-9:30 p.m.** | Introduction | Read Sachs, Chapter 1  Reading questions in Moodle |
| Week 2  July 2-8  **Quiz July 8 8:30-9:30 p.m.** | An Unequal World | Read Sachs, Chapter 2;  View Reich: *Inequality for All*  Reading & viewing questions in Moodle |
| Week 3  July 9-15  **Quiz July 15 8:30-9:30 p.m.** | Economic Development  Crises of Capitalism: The US Housing Crisis Ballooned into a Global Financial Crisis | Read Sachs, Chapter 3;  View *Money Power and Wall Street* PBS;  <http://www.pbs.org/video/2226666502/>  View *The Untouchables* PBS <http://www.pbs.org/video/2327953844/>  Reading & viewing questions in Moodle |
| Week 4  July 16-22  Project instructions posted to Moodle  **Quiz July 22 8:30-9:30 p.m**. | Development: Causes, Limitations, Challenges | Read Sachs, Chapters 4 & 5;  View [*Living With Malaria*](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3mymec)*;*  *View Guns, Germs and Steel Episode 3;*  Reading & viewing questions in Moodle |
| Week 5  July 23-29  **Quiz July 29 8:30-9:30 p.m.** | Social Inclusion | Read Sachs, Chapters 4 & 5;  View [**Talks at Google**: Richard Wolff, Democracy at Work](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynbgMKclWWc).  Reading & viewing questions in Moodle |
| Week 6  July 30 – August 2  **Project due July 31**  **Quiz August 2** take any time 12:01 am to midnight | Planetary Boundaries | Read Sachs, Chapter 6;  View Klein: *This Changes Everything;*  View Tony Seba: *Disruptive Technology;*  Reading & viewing questions in Moodle |

\*Details on accessing all course materials will be on Moodle on a week-by-week basis. A number of newspaper length articles may also be part of required readings. Moodle is final authority of activities; syllabus is only an at-a-glance guide and changes may be made. This is a dynamic document: deletions on syllabus will be indicated by ~~crossing out material~~, additions by red ink.

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.