GEOG640C Industry Location

Instructor
Dr. Yifei Sun
Associate professor
Department of Geography
Sierra Hall 130E
California State University, Northridge
(818) 677-3529
yifei.sun@csun.edu

Meeting time: 6:00 pm – 8:45pm, Wednesday

Meeting room: Sierra Hall 130A

Office hours: 13:00 – 15:00 Mondays and the 14:00-15:30 Thursdays

Textbook: No required texts

Course Goals and Outcomes

Goals
This will be a graduate seminar for students who are interested in recent progress in economic geography. We will discuss hot topics in economic geography such as technology upgrading, innovation, industry clusters, global production networks, global value chains, as well as more theoretical discussion on the different approaches in economic geography, among others.

This class has no textbooks and will heavily rely on different kinds of readings.

Outcomes
I hope that after taking the class, students will get familiar with the major approaches and research themes in current economic geography, understand major concepts and theoretical discussions as well the major empirical researches. I also hope that such a class will also help students to develop their critical thinking skills, search and find potential topics for their own theses, and come up with a research plan to execute such a project.
Tentative class schedule and readings

**Week one (Jan 21): On Economic Geography**


**Week two (Jan. 28): Concepts of clustering**


**Week three (Feb. 4): Critics on clustering**


**Week four (Feb. 11): Local Learning and innovation**


**Week Five (Feb. 18): innovation and extra-local linkages**


**Week Six (Feb. 25): Foreign Direct Investment and Multinational Corporations**


**Week Seven (Mar. 4): Global Production Networks (GPN)**


**Week Eight (Mar. 11): Global Value Chains (GVC)**


**Week Nine (Mar. 18): Institutionalist perspective and the cultural turn**


**Cultural Turn**


**Week Ten (March 25): No meeting: AAG**

**Week Eleven (April 1): Relational Turn**


**Week Twelve (April 15): Evolutionary Economic geography**


**Week Thirteen –Fifteen: Student Presentations**

**Assignments and grading**

1. **Assigned Readings and Class Participation (30%)**
   
   The students are expected to read the assigned literature before each meeting and get ready to participate in discussion. Your active participation in the discussion is vital for the success of this class. As such, your performance in such class discussion will account for 30% of your final grade. Most of the readings are available through the CSUN library. You are required to download or Xerox the papers/chapters on your own costs. For certain materials not available through the CSUN library, I will make their digital files available to you in advance.

2. **Discussion Leader (20%)**
   
   Each student is expected to lead discussion on one topic during the semester. The leader student needs to read the assigned literature really well. Your performance of the leading role for the discussion will account for 20% of your final grade.

3. **Empirical Research Report (15%)**
   
   To have a better understanding of subjects and practices in the field of economic geography, each student is required to give a 20 minutes presentation on a recent empirical research from a major geography journal: including the *Annals of the Association of the American, Professional Geographer, Economic Geography, Journal of Economic Geography*, all of which are accessible through the CSUN library website. The student should locate the article during the first week and inform the instructor as well as other members of the class before the second meeting of the class (Jan 28). The student is expected to introduce the full extent of the paper: from research question (s)/Hypotheses, significance of the research, data and methodology, results and conclusions, and the student’s comments on the quality of the research and writing. The student is required to submit a written report (upto 5 pages double spaced) along with the original article to the instructor in advance of his/her presentation. I hope that such an exercise will help you understand how quality research is framed and learn how to approach a research topic. Your total performance on this assignment accounts for 15% of your final grade.
4. Research Paper (35%)

Each student is expected to write a paper (15-20 pages) and give a 30-minute presentation to the class before the end of the semester. The paper could be a critical review of research on a topic in economic geography, or even better, a full research project. If the student chooses to do a literature review on a topic, he/she should also address the deficiencies in the literature and potential issues waiting to be examined in the future. I hope such an exercise will help you find potential topics for your thesis. The written part of your paper accounts for 25% and your presentation accounts for 15% of your final grade.

Your draft of paper is due April 15, right after the Spring Break.

5. Grading scheme

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>88 – 92</td>
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<td>85 – 87</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>82 – 84</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>78 – 81</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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Academic honesty

Finally, please be honest with all your assignments. **Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty are 100% prohibited.** Any instance of academic dishonesty will be reported to the University and the case will be processed according to relevant school regulations. For an explanation of University guidelines on cheating or plagiarism, go here: [http://www.csun.edu/a&c/soc/legalnotices.html](http://www.csun.edu/a&c/soc/legalnotices.html).

For students who need special help

If you have some physical problems such as color blinded, or if you think you need some other special help for taking this class, please contact me before or on the first meeting. We will try to figure out how to deal with the related issues.

**Note:** this syllabus is tentative and subject to changes. It is the students’ responsibility to be aware of all the changes that are announced in class.