

Colorado State University (Pueblo), Hasan School of Business
ECON 491 – Geography of World Economy
Spring 2016, TTh 1:00-2:20, GCB 201

Instructor: Dr. Justin Holman
Office hours: HSB 253, MW 12:30-2:30, 4:00-4:30
Course Blog: <http://www.justinholman.com/teaching/econ491/>
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Overview: This class will explore the geographic dimension of economic activities. Students will examine various industries at different spatial scales (global, regional, local) to better understand how location can provide economic advantage or disadvantage. In addition, students will gain familiarity with key cities, countries and regions and the important role they play in shaping the global economy.

Prerequisites: NA

Textbook: NA

Course Materials: The Economist (economist.com) and assigned web videos, reading, etc.

Course Format: This will *not* be a traditional lecture class. Instead, we will utilize a modified “blended learning” or “flipped classroom” approach (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blended_learning and/or http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flip_teaching for details). Classroom discussions and group activities will provide an important opportunity to learn through participation and interaction. Discussion topics will occasionally be political in nature as economic activities are often inseparable from political context.

Grading Components:

- **Exams** There will be 3 midterm exams and 1 comprehensive final. Each exam will include questions designed to assess your understanding of assigned course materials, classroom discussion topics and World Geography.
- **Attendance and Participation** Students are expected to attend classes and participate in discussions and other classroom activities.

Grading Criteria

Each grading component will be assigned a score expressed as a percentage. The weighted average of these percentages will determine your final grade. Standard grading thresholds will apply, i.e., >=90% will earn an A, >=80% a B, >=70% a C, >=60% a D, and <60% an F.

Classroom Etiquette

Professional behavior is expected at all times. Disruptive behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated. Anyone causing a disturbance will be asked to leave the classroom. Multiple infractions will result in referral to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

Special Accommodations

Some students may require special accommodation, for a variety of reasons, to achieve learning objectives. I will do my best to facilitate such requests. Please email or visit during office hours to make arrangements.

Court of Appeals

If a student is unable to attend class, misses an exam or fails to complete an assignment the score or grade assigned will be zero. Depending on circumstances, a makeup opportunity may be granted. Students may also request a review of an exam or assignment score. The Court of Appeals will only accept requests submitted via email to provide a communication trail and avoid misunderstandings.

Course Outline*:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Theories of Uneven Economic Development
2	Production Hotspots in North America
3	Drug Cartels and Migration in Mexico & Central America
4	Natural Resource Extraction in South America
5	Review and Midterm Exam 1
6	Financial Services and Sovereign Debt in Europe
7	Oil and Conflict in the Middle East
8	Government Instability in Africa
9	Review and Midterm Exam 2
10	Spring Break
11	Oligarchy in Russia & Central Asia
12	Offshoring in India & South Asia
13	Manufacturing in China & East Asia
14	Review and Midterm Exam 3
15	Finals Week - Comprehensive Final Exam

*** Subject to revision.**