

**Department of Geography**  
**Geography 300: Economic Geography**

**Office Phone:** 301-687-4724, **Administrative Assistant:** 301-687-4369

**Office Location:** GU 234

**Office Hours:** 1:00-1:50 pm MW, 2:00-2:00 M, 8:00-8.50 am TR or by appointment.

**Lecture Hours:** TR 9:30-10:45 pm

**Lecture Room:** GU 204

**Email:** [jsaku@frostburg.edu](mailto:jsaku@frostburg.edu)

### **Course Description**

The distribution of world economic activities. Agriculture, mining, the manufacturing industries.

### **Institutional Learning Goals**

1. Liberal knowledge and skills of inquiry, critical thinking, and synthesis: Students will be required to use different methods in gathering and evaluating theories and methods in economic geography.
2. Core Skills: Class assignments will provide students the opportunity to comprehend and interpret information in written and oral form. Written communication skills of students will be enhanced by independent research paper, annotated bibliography, paper review and current event assignment.
3. Acquisition and application of specialized knowledge: Several concepts and theories covered in the class will allow students to comprehend issues on economic development, regional trading blocks and factors that affect location of industries. The role of multinational corporations in economic development is explored.
4. Values and Social Responsibilities: Students will demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of economic development of third world countries and the impact of economic development on the environment.
5. Appreciation of cultural identities: Students will demonstrate an understanding of global inequality in economic development.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of the class students will have to demonstrate their understanding and competence in the following:

1. The effect of globalization on economic systems.
2. The impact of population on economic development.

3. An understanding of the factors affecting the location of industries.
4. The relationship between resources and the environment.
5. The relationship between price, demand, and supply.
6. Submit an excellent paper on any aspect of economic geography.

**Required text:**

Stutz P. Frederick and Warf Barney (2012). **The World Economy: Resources, Location, Trade and Development.** Prentice-Hall, New Jersey.

**Important Notice**

RedShelf offers an e-book edition of the textbook through Canvas at a discount rate. You have the option to “Opt in” to the material. Your student account will be billed about 2 weeks after the semester begins. You have no obligation to purchase. The instructor is not using e-book version of the textbook.

**Grading:** All in-class tests and final examination will consist of multiple choice and short questions and answers. Prior approval is required for missing an examination. No make-up examinations will be granted if you fail to seek prior approval.

The final grade will consist of the following. These dates are tentative and subject to change.

Class participation through 4 current events presentation (10 points each)	= 40 points
Group project on International Organizations (11/12 and 11/14)	= 100 points
Assignment 1- Paper Review (09/5)	= 50 points
Annotated Bibliography (10/17)	= 50 points
Term paper (11/26)	= 100 points
Test 1 (9/26)	= 100 points
Test 2 (10/31)	= 100 points
Final examination (12/17, 8:00-10:30 am)	= 100 points

The final grade is based on the total points accumulated over a maximum of 640 points. The scale and grades are as follows:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F < 60%

**Important Dates to remember**

**Assignment 1 – Paper Review: September 5**

**Annotated bibliography: October 17**

**Group Project: November 12 and 14**

**Term Paper: November 26**

**Test 1: September 26**

**Test 2: October 31**

**Current Events: 9/12, 10/3, 11/7, 12/5**

**Final Exams**

**December 17, 8:00-10:30 pm**

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is defined to include any form of cheating and/or plagiarism.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Stealing or altering testing instruments;
- Falsifying the identity of persons for any academic purpose;
- Offering, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on an examination, quiz or other written or oral material in a course;
- Falsifying information on any type of academic record

Plagiarism is:

- The presentation of written or oral material in a manner which conceals the true source of documentary material; or
- The presentation of materials which uses hypotheses, conclusions, evidence, data, or the like, in a way that the student appears to have done work which s/he did not, in fact, do.

In cases involving academic dishonesty, a failing grade or a grade of zero (0) for an assignment and/or a course may be administered. “Students expelled or suspended for reasons of academic dishonesty... shall not be admissible to any other University of Maryland System institution if expelled, or during any period of suspension” (*Bylaws, Policies & Procedures of the University System of Maryland*, Section III).

## **Disruptive Behavior**

The University will not tolerate disorderly conduct which substantially threatens, harms, or interferes with university personnel or orderly university processes and functions. All students are expected to be reasonable and respectful to fellow students, guest speakers, and me. See *The Pathfinder* at <http://www.frostburg.edu/clife/ses/pathfinder.pdf> for a description of disruptive student behavior and its consequences.

Note: Your instructor has the right to require a student to leave the classroom when his/her behavior disrupts the learning environment of the class. A student found responsible for disruptive behavior in the classroom may be administratively withdrawn from the course.

## **Students with Learning or Physical Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability, please contact the Director of Disability Support Services at 301-687-4483 or stop by 150 Pullen Hall to set an appointment. We want to be sure you receive appropriate accommodations as soon as possible.

## **Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse/Gender Based Harassment and Misconduct**

Frostburg State University and its faculty are committed to maintaining a safe learning environment and supporting survivors of violence. To meet this commitment and comply with federal and state law, FSU requires all faculty and staff (other than the confidential employees in CAPS and Brady Health) to report any instances of gender-based harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or stalking against students. This means if you share your or another FSU student's experience with gender-based harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, or, stalking, I have a duty to report the information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. The only exception to my reporting obligation is when such incidents are communicated during class discussion, as part of an assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project.

Faculty and staff are also obligated to report allegations of child abuse and neglect to University Police and to Child Protective Services. This obligation extends to disclosures of past abuse even if the victim is now an adult and the abuser is deceased. My duty to report suspected child abuse and neglect extends to disclosures that are made as part of classroom discussions and in writing assignments.

If you or someone you know has experienced an incident of harassment or violence, please go to [www.frostburg.edu/titleix](http://www.frostburg.edu/titleix) to find information on reporting options and the resources and services available for support.

## **Policy**

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and participate actively during class discussions. To participate actively in class, students are required to read their assigned

chapter pages prior to class. Attendance will be recorded for administrative purpose. You are responsible for any missed work the day you are absent. Students are responsible for informing the instructor about their presence when they arrive in class after attendance has been taken.

Course assignment and annotated bibliography are to be submitted promptly on the due day. Late submission of assignments carries a penalty of 20% per day for a maximum of 5 days. Assignments will be accepted after the 5th day without a reasonable cause. A reasonable cause is defined as serious illness (doctor's report required) or tragedy within the family (a note from family member required).

**It is expected that all written work will conform to high standards of grammar and style. Bad grammar and style will be penalized in the grading of written work. The Writing Center in Pullen Hall will be willing to review your work before you submit it to the instructor.**

### **Cell phones and pagers**

Cell phones and pagers should be turned off when you come to class. Answering cell phones or checking text messages in class is disrespectful to me and your fellow students. Exception is given to a certified EMT or fire responder. Please inform me ahead of time if you need to have your beeper active all the time because of your profession or special circumstances.

### **Canvas**

Course materials are posted on canvas. You are required to visit the site frequently to check on announcements and deadlines. You can also check your grades and average from the grade book.

### **Group Project**

All students are required to participate in a group project. Details of the project are posted on Canvas and hard copies handed out in class.

### **Paper Review**

Each student is required to review and provide critical comments on the following paper.

**James C. Saku 2008. "Towards an Understanding of Aboriginal Regional Corporations: The case of the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic of Canada." Geography Research Forum 28:113-129.**

**The details of the assignment are posted on Canvas and copies will be given out in class.**

## Annotated bibliography

All students are required to use the following resources from FSU Library to search for five journal articles or peer reviewed articles on economic geography. Peer reviewed articles are usually long and are published in a professional journal. Consult with me if you are in doubt of whether your article is peer reviewed or not. The title of your articles should be different from those for assignment 1. While it is recommended that your articles cover a variety of topics, you can also limit the five articles to a potential topic of your term paper, i.e., all the articles may be limited to “Economic Development of Third World Countries”. Details of this assignment is on canvas.

## FSU Library Resources

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?profile=eds&custid=frostburg&groupid=main&authtype=ip,guest>

A-Z Databases List: <http://libguides.frostburg.edu/az.php>

Journal Search (to browse journals): <http://sfx.umd.edu/fs/journalsearch>

## Current Events on Economic Geography

To promote class participation and discussion, students are required to participate in four current event assignments. You are required to report on a current event that was reported by a news media within the past two weeks on an economic issue. Non participation in current event would lead to loss of points. The assignment will be graded so you need to check your spellings. The following issues should be addressed. You are required to follow the format suggested below. **You will lose 5 points if you did not attend class to present your current event orally.**

Dates of current events: 9/12, 10/3, 11/7, 12/5

Address the following questions by numbering your responses.

1. When and where did the event occur?
2. Which news media reported the event?
3. Give a detailed summary of the event 2-3 paragraphs.
4. Why do you consider this event important?
5. What are your personal reflections on the event, that is, what impact is this event on you and the society?
6. Suggest possible recommendations in dealing with this event.

## **General Course Outline and Reading (tentative and subject to change)**

### **1: Economic Geography: An introduction (Reading: Chapter 1) 8/27, and 8/29**

Economic geography examined: Modes of theorizing in economic geography: location theory (spatial integration and spatial interaction), behavioural geographers, political economy, globalization of culture and consumption, globalization of world economy – transnational corporations, globalization of investment, globalization of services, globalization of tourism, information technology and globalization

### **2: The Historical Development of Capitalism (Reading Chapter 2) 9/3 and 9/5**

Feudalism and the birth of capitalism, emergence and nature of capitalism, the industrial revolution, colonialism on a world scale, the effects of colonialism

### **3: Population and world economy (Reading: Chapter 3) 9/10 and 9/12**

Global population distribution, population growth overtime, population structure – population pyramid, Malthusian theory, and demographic transition theory, Read on migration.

### **4. Resources and Environment (Reading: Chapter 4) 9/17 and 9/19**

Carrying capacity and over population, types of resources and their limits, renewable and non-renewable, food resources, non-renewable mineral resources, energy resources, energy options – conservation, nuclear, geothermal, hydropower, solar energy, wind power, biomass.

### **Examination 1: 9/26 (Tentative)**

### **5: Theoretical considerations (Reading: Chapter 5) 10/1 and 10/3**

Factors of location, land, labor, capital, managerial and technical skills, The Weberian model – raw material, localized, pure material, scale of production vertical and horizontal integration, diversification, how and why firms grow, geographic organization of corporations.

### **6: Global agricultural system and Land Use (Reading: Chapter 6) 10/8 and 10/10**

The rise of agriculture, the industrialization of agriculture, factors affecting rural land-use, The Von Thunen model and the law of diminishing returns, calculating location rent.

### **7. Manufacturing (Reading Chapter 7) 10/15 and 10/17**

The nature of manufacturing, concentration of world industries – North America, Europe and Russia, East Asia, Deindustrialization, dynamics of major manufacturing sectors –

textile, steel, automobiles, electronics, case study of export processing zones, flexible manufacturing, Third World Industrialization.

### **8: Geography of Price Regulation 10/22, 10/24**

basic concepts -- price and scarcity relationship between price and demand, relationship between price and supply, equilibrium market price, price elasticity demand and supply, types of elasticity pricing under imperfect market - monopoly, oligopoly, monopsony, oligopsony other methods of price control (base point and uniform pricing).

### **Examination 2 10/31 (Tentative)**

### **9: Services (Reading Chapter 8) 11/5 and 11/7**

Defining services, types of services, factors affecting the growth of services, labor markets in service economy, financial services – regulation and deregulation of finance, financial crises of 2007-2009, location of producer services; international trade in services – offshore banking, consumer services – (read medical tourism – page 240).

### **10: Group project presentation: 11/12 and 11/14**

### **12: International Trade and Investment (Reading Chapter 12) 11/19 and 11/21**

Trade by barter and money, absolute and comparative advantage, competitive advantage, international money and capital market, exchange rates and international trade, foreign direct investment, barriers to international trade, trade protectionism, reduction of trade barriers, multinational economic organizations (IMF, International bank for reconstruction), regional economic integration -- The European Union, North American Free Trade Agreement, OPEC (read), World Trade Organization (read).

### **11. Thanksgiving break – 11/26**

### **13: International Trade Patterns (Reading Chapter 13) 12/3 and 12/5**

World trade patterns: United States, Canada, The European Union, Latin America, Mexico, South America, East Asia, Japan, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Australia, India, South Africa, Russia and the Middle East, Global trade flows – microelectronics, automobiles, steel, textiles and clothing, grains and feed and nonoil commodities