

GEOG2030 Global Development (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Professor Becky P Y Loo

Objectives

This course explains the processes of globalization and the implications of using information and communication technologies (ICT) in understanding forces of spatial convergence and divergence. It provides students with a better understanding of the forces of globalization and ICT, and their impact on contemporary geography. After taking this course, students are expected to be able to understand local issues as the results of forces operating at different spatial scales and be able to analyze and respond to changes brought about by globalization and ICT.

Course Synopsis

A geographical perspective is adopted to explain and analyze the processes of globalization. Special emphasis is placed on the modern transnational corporations (TNCs) in different sectors of the economy and different regions of the world. Then, the impact of ICT on various dimensions of the society, including government, commerce, work, and personal and social networking, are systematically examined. The stages of e-development are proposed. Finally, the question of whether places in the contemporary world are moving towards convergence and divergence is addressed.

Lecture Topics

- Globalization
- Towards the e-society
- Modern transnational corporations
- Selected theories
- Case studies
- Convergence or divergence?

Assessment

Examination (two hours) 50%; Coursework 50% (one term essay).

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Understand contemporary spatial patterns and processes of globalization
- Critically understand origins, operations and significance of modern transnational corporations
- Understand characteristics of flexible production
- Identify processes of e-government, e-commerce, e-working and e-networking
- Analyze stages of e-development
- Discuss impacts on spatial convergence and divergence

Skills:

- Apply theories to analyze real-life situations
- Develop skills of writing essays with standpoints

Recommended Reading List

1. Dicken, P. (2015) *Global Shift: Mapping the Changing Contours of the World Economy*, sixth edition. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.
2. Loo, Becky P.Y. (2012) *The E-society*. New York: Nova Science.