

GEOG2128 Economic Geography (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Dr. Alex Y. Lo

Objectives

To introduce the fundamentals of economic geography and help students develop a knowledge base about the interaction between geographical space and economic processes.

Course Synopsis

This course gives an introduction to the theoretical interpretations of why economic activities are located where they are. Multi-faceted explanations are presented for the causes and consequences of uneven development within and between regions. The course focuses on the geographically specific factors that shape economic processes and identify key agents (such as firms, labour and the state) and drivers (such as innovation, institutions, entrepreneurship and accessibility) that prompt uneven territorial development and change (such as industrial clusters, regional disparities and core-periphery). It also examines the important roles of internet, transportation, urbanization, globalization, sustainable development in driving economic change at various geographical scales.

Lecture Topics

- Basic principles of economics and geography
- Key agents in economic geography
- Key drivers of economic change
- Industries and regions in economic change
- Global economic geographies
- Socio-cultural context of economic change
- Emerging themes in economic geography

Assessment

100% coursework (consists of term paper, quizzes, and presentation).

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Principles of and changing perspectives in economic geography
- Interaction between geographical space and economic processes
- Economic change in the context of globalization

Skills:

- To differentiate various perspectives in economic geography
- To evaluate the relevance of the theories about the relationship between geographical space and economic processes
- To identify and explore spatial drivers of economic activities

Recommended Reading List

1. Aoyama, Yuko, Murphy, James T. and Hanson, Susan. (2011) Key concepts in economic geography. Los Angeles : SAGE
2. Hayter, Roger and Patchell, Jerry. (2011) Economic geography: An institutional approach. New York: Oxford University Press.