

GEOG1012 Economic and Social Development in an Urbanizing World (6 credits)

Course Teachers: Dr James J Wang (coordinator) and Dr Harry F Lee

Objectives

Understand this globalizing world, from human-geography approaches, with special emphasis on urban, economic and social issues.

Course Synopsis

This course introduces students to the processes and spatial patterns of economic development and social changes in an increasingly urbanizing world. Important subjects to be discussed include the geographical dynamics of economic development, the trend of economic globalization versus local development, the location issue in various economic sectors, geopolitics and the new world order, as well as social and environmental concerns in the urbanization process. Emphasis will be placed on the geographical explanation of economic development and emerging urban issues in this fast changing world.

Lecture Topics

- New geographies of development
- Global vs. local and states vs. multi-nationals
- Case studies in globalizing world economy
- Urbanization: processes and outcomes
- Urban structure and land-use
- Urban planning and urban spaces

Assessment

Examination (two hours) 60%; coursework 40% (consists of two essays, 1,500 words each).

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Comprehensive vision of globalization
- Understanding of global-local interactions and their impacts on our daily lives
- Understanding of basic process of urbanization and its variations and impacts

Skills:

- Capability to associate world development with local development issues
- Awareness of local specific development trajectories
- Comprehension of basic perspectives of urban geography and economic geography

Recommended Reading List

1. Knox, Paul L. & Sallie A. Marston (2007) *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography*, 4th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
2. Murray, Warwick E. (2006) *Geographies of Globalization*. London: Routledge.