

GEOG3407 Locational Changes of Global Economic Activities (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Prof George C S Lin

Objectives

To understand why economic activities are located where they are. Both topical and regional issues of economic geography are discussed and economic development at the global, national, and local scales are examined.

Course Synopsis

This course gives an introduction to competing theoretical interpretations of why economic activities are located where they are. Emphasis is placed on the processes of globalization, their geographical implications, and various theoretical attempts to understand the dynamics of the new economic landscape. Both topical and regional issues of economic geography are discussed and economic development at the global, national, and local scales are examined.

Lecture Topics

- Changing perspectives in economic geography
- The primary sector: Location and utilization of resources
- The secondary sector: Post-Fordism and flexible specialization
- The tertiary sector: Post-industrialism and the service economy
- Quaternary place theory: Changing geographies of control and production function
- Case studies: Retailing, wholesaling, and offices
- Understanding economic development

Assessment

Examination (two hours) 50%; coursework 50% (consists of an essay).

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Awareness of the evolution of and changing perspectives in economic geography
- Evaluation of the theories and models that explain the locations of economic activities
- An understanding of the changing economic landscapes in major world regions

Skills:

- Ability to differentiate conservative, liberal, and radical perspectives
- Ability to evaluate the relevance of theories on the location of economic activities
- Skills in the identification and explanation of spatial shifts of economic activities

Recommended Reading List

1. Stutz, F.P. & de Souza, A.R. (2005) *The World Economy: Resources, Location, Trade, and Development*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.
2. Sheppard, E. & Barnes, T. J. (eds.) (2000) *A Companion to Economic Geography*. Oxford: Blackwell.