

*Department of Geography and Program in Planning
University of Toronto*

GGR 221 H1F ----New Economic Spaces

Summer 2014

Instructor: Dr. Peng-Fei Li
Office: Sidney Smith Hall, Room 5068
Office Hours: Thursday, 2:00-4:00 PM (or by appointment), May 13 to June 19
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Lecture Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00-8:00 PM, May 13 to June 19
Lecture Room: Sidney Smith Hall 2108
Course Website: Blackboard (portal.utoronto.ca)

Course Introduction

This course provides an introduction to new theories and ideas in economic geography that have developed over the past decades. The ongoing globalization process has fundamentally changed the landscape of the global economy. The course will explore how new economic spaces are created in the current globalization age and why spatial agglomeration of economic activities becomes more important for industries and regions to build competitive advantages. The rise of knowledge economies and new production models will be given particular attention, along with discussions on regional recession, resource-based development, and increasing inequality in Canada and many other countries.

Course Policies

Email policy: Please **always** use your University of Toronto e-mail address for class related communications. All class e-mail will be sent to your UofT address. You are responsible for maintaining your e-mail account: missing e-mails will not be accepted as an excuse. **No assignments will be accepted via e-mail.** In order to avoid email overload, do not send an e-mail simultaneously to both the Instructor and the TA. The instructor and the TA will try our best to respond as promptly as possible (within 1-2 days, not including weekends). Generally, email should be reserved for asking questions that can be answered briefly. More extended discussions should be done during scheduled office hours or by appointment.

Course Requirements: Evaluation will be based on a final exam, a research proposal (2 pages double-spaced, 500-600 words), and an empirical research paper (8-10 pages

double-spaced, 2000-3000 words). For the research proposal and the research paper, students are required to explore the development of some economic activity (e.g. a firm or an industry) in specific areas through the lens of concepts, ideas and theories covered in the class. For the requirements about the assignments, please refer to the Assignment Guideline. The final exam will cover the content of the lectures and the required readings in the course.

Grading scheme for the course and due dates of assignments are structured as follows:

Assignment	Weight	Due date
Research Proposal (500-600 words)	20%	May 22 nd
Research Paper (2000-3000 words)	40%	June 19 th
Final Exam	40%	TBA

Assignment submission: All assignments are due at the **beginning** of class. **For the research proposal, you are only required to submit the print version. For the research paper, you are required to submit both the electronic and print versions. The time of research paper submission is based on the receipt of both the print and electronic versions. Be sure to submit the same version of your paper in both electronic and print forms.**

Late penalty policy: Because this is an accelerated summer class, meeting deadlines is critical. **Anything submitted after the start of class on the due date is considered 1 day late. Late assignments are subject to a 10% per day penalty. Weekends count as one day (i.e. anything submitted by the first Monday 5pm after the due date will receive 20% penalty). No email submission is accepted. Nothing will be accepted more than 7 days after the due date.** Extensions are only granted with appropriate documentation (UofT student medical certificate or College Registrar's letter). In this situation, it is the responsibility of students to provide any documentation as soon as possible and no later than one week of an assignment due date to be considered for exemption of late penalty. Late assignments need to be deposited in the assignment dropbox outside of the main Geography office on the 5th floor of Sid Smith Hall. The office is open only Monday-Friday, and closes at **5:00pm sharp** in the summer, so please plan accordingly.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. It is expected that everything submitted in this class is original work prepared for this class. Plagiarism is not acceptable at this University. You should never paste passages from either academic sources or material found on the internet into your draft, and **if you do find a distinctive phrase or sentence that you might want to quote, make sure to put quotation marks around it in your papers.** Details on the University's rules about plagiarism can be found at <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html> and information

on how not to plagiarize and how to use sources can be found at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources>.

Turnitin: The course also uses Turnitin.com, a web-based program to deter plagiarism and ensure academic integrity. Normally, students will be required to submit their research papers to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their papers to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Students will need to set up an account at Turnitin.com if they have not already. If this is your first time using Turnitin, please see the instruction guide at <http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/guide-students.htm>. You may also need to know that Turnitin is no longer integrated in Blackboard. So please log in Turnitin directly to submit your research paper. **To register for the class in Turnitin, please use the class code 8012209 and the password 'nes2014'**

Students are required to upload their research papers (not research proposals) to Turnitin.com before submitting them at the beginning of class. I will be setting up Turnitin so that students can view the originality report in advance. **It is strongly recommended that students take advantage of this opportunity to check their research papers in Turnitin prior to final submission.** Print papers that have not also been submitted into Turnitin will not be graded. If, as a student, you object to using Turnitin.com, please see the course instructor to establish appropriate alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments. This must be done well in advance of the submission deadlines. Alternatives to use of Turnitin may include handing in all handwritten notes and materials used in preparing the assignment and providing different digital versions of the paper stored once every thirty minutes of writing.

Blackboard: The course uses the management system Blackboard which helps to establish efficient communication between instructor, teaching assistant, and student. To access the Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to <http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca>. The Help Desk at the Information Commons and telephone assistance under 416-978-HELP can also answer other related questions.

Accessibility Services: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at disability.services@utoronto.ca or

<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>.

Course Readings

There is no textbook for this course. The course package with required readings can be purchased at Scholar House Productions, 100 Harbord Street, Toronto. Tel: 416-977-9641. The cost of this package is \$49 including taxes.

Lectures and required readings (marked by an asterisk *) are organized as follows:

May 13: Globalization

*Friedman, T.L. (2005) It's a flat world, after all. *New York Times*, April 3.

May 15: Landscape of the Global Economy

*Scott, A. (1996) Regional motors of the global economy, *Futures*, 28: 391-411.

May 20: What does "Made in Canada" mean? The Concept of Value Chains

*Gereffi, G. (1999) International trade and industrial upgrading in the apparel commodity chain, *Journal of International Economics*, 48: 37-70.

May 22: Agglomeration (**due date for the research proposal**)

No reading

May 27: Clusters and Regional Competitive Advantages

*Porter, M. (1998) Clusters and the new economics of competition. *Harvard Business Review*, 79(6): 77—90.

May 29: Innovation and Geography of Knowledge

*Bramwell, A., Wolfe, D.A. (2008) Universities and regional economic development: the entrepreneurial University of Waterloo, *Research Policy*, 37: 1175-1187.

June 3: Social Networks for Learning

*Li, P.-F., Bathelt, H., Wang, J. (2012) Network dynamics and cluster evolution: changing trajectories of the aluminium extrusion industry in Dali, China, *Journal of Economic Geography*, 12: 127-155.

June 5: Recession and Recovery

*Grabher, G. (1993). The weakness of strong ties: the lock-in of regional development in the Ruhr area. In G. Grabher ed. *The Embedded Firm: On the Socio-Economics of Industrial Networks*, London: Routledge.

June 10: States

*Gilson, R.J. (1999) The legal infrastructure of high technology industrial districts: Silicon Valley, Route 128, and covenants not to compete, *New York University Law Review*, 74: 575-629.

June 12: Transnational Learning

*Saxenian, A., Hsu, J.-Y. (2001). The Silicon Valley-Hsinchu Connection: Technical Communities and Industrial Upgrading. *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 10: 893-920.

June 17: Is Canada cursed by natural resources?

*Hayter, R., Barnes, T.J. (2001) Canada's resource economy, *Canadian Geographers*, 45: 36-41.

June 19: Inequality (**due date for the research paper**)

No reading