GEOGRAPHY*2230:
Commodity Chains and Cultures of Consumption

Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics
University of Guelph, Fall 2020
Prerequisites: GEOG*1200 or GEOG*1220

Scheduled Time: 11:30-12:50, Tues and Thurs

COVID-19 Changes

None of this class will be held in person
Some of this class will be held virtually at our specific class times (dates listed below)
Most of this class will happen asynchronously (you can work on it whenever is convenient to you)

Instructor: Dr. Roberta Hawkins
rhawkins@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistant: See CourseLink

Office hours: By appointment or virtual drop-in office hours via Zoom. See Course Outline and CourseLink for details.

Territorial Acknowledgement
Acknowledging the territory on which we learn and work honours the relationship between lands/waters and the Indigenous ancestors and stewards of them. This acknowledgement is adapted from the University of Guelph Aboriginal Resource Centre and Student Life:

“The University of Guelph rests on the traditional territory of the Attawanderon people. We therefore acknowledge the Attawanderon people and offer our respect to Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as the university and community strive to strengthen our relationships with them. We also recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land. The Dish with One Spoon Covenant is a peace agreement made between Indigenous nations before the Europeans arrived. It characterizes our collective responsibility to each other and Mother Earth - we should take only what we need, leave enough for others and keep the dish clean.”

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to the spatial structure, distribution, and social dynamics of economic activity. We will learn about key economic actors, institutions, and relationships and will examine extractive activities, manufacturing, retail, marketing and consumption. The theme of ‘environment and economy’ will run through the course. The course will build your expertise in four areas (the course is roughly divided according to these):

- Conceptual foundations
- Key economic actors;
- Governing the Economy; and,
- Social and Cultural Dimensions.
Course material, activities, and assignments will reveal interconnections within and between these areas. We will use commodity chain analysis, case studies, discussion and argumentative essay writing to explore and reinforce course material.

**Course Objectives:**
By the end of the semester, students should be able to do the following:
- Demonstrate an understanding of definitions and concepts covered in lectures and readings;
- Apply these to examine and assess different case studies and commodity chains;
- Reflect on the roles of different actors (government, firms, individuals) in commodity chains; and,
- Construct and support evidence-based arguments regarding contemporary patterns and processes in commodity production and consumption.

**Course Schedule and Remote Teaching**
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this course will be taught entirely online. The majority of this course will be taught asynchronously – meaning that you can engage with the course content at times each week that are more convenient to you. That said, there will be 4 synchronous virtual seminars that you must attend for this course. The dates and times of these meetings are listed below. They are different for different groups of people in the class. You can find out which group you are in on CourseLink. A portion of your grade will be based on these seminar activities. Please note that there will be alternative assignments available for those who are unable to attend seminar activities due to technological issues. Please contact the TA to learn more about the alternative assignments.

**Student Evaluation:**
- Seminar activities (4 x 3% each): 12%
- Quizzes (2 x 6.5% each): 13%
- Commodity Chain Analysis (Assignment #1): 30%
- Evidence-based Essay (Assignment #2): 20%
- Take-home exam: 25%

**Required Text:**

The textbook is available for purchase via the campus bookstore [link] and from other book sellers. If you decide to buy it from another source, please be sure that you get the correct edition. All other course readings are available through our Courselink website.
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<th>Week # and start date</th>
<th>TOPIC and/or ACTIVITY</th>
<th>READINGS and RESPONSIBILITIES</th>
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| 1 (Sept 7)            | Introduction and course organization | Watch: Lecture - Introduction  
Complete: Start of Semester Survey on CourseLink  
(invitation will be e-mailed to you)  
Watch: Video – How to do well in this course  
Watch: Video – How to read a text book  
Watch: Video – How to watch lectures |
| 2 (Sept 14)           | Conceptual foundations: Thinking Spatially  
Conceptual foundations: Exploring ‘the economy’  
Virtual Office Hours.  
Drop-in Thursday 11:30-12:30 | Read: Chapter 1 - Geography: How do we Think Spatially?  
Watch: Lecture – Chapter 1 |
| 3 (Sept 21)           | Conceptual foundations: What is ‘the economy’?  
Virtual Seminar #1  
(Tuesday: Groups 1 and 2)  
(Thursday: Groups 3 and 4) | Read: Chapter 2 - The Economy: What does it Mean?  
Watch: Lecture – Chapter 2  
Watch: Lecture – In Focus: The Buycott App  
BEFORE YOUR SEMINAR:  
Read: Resource Materials for Seminar 1  
Watch: Video – How to use zoom (for students)  
Watch: Video – How to prepare for and attend a virtual seminar |
| 4 (Sept 28)           | Conceptual foundations: Uneven economic growth  
Virtual Office Hours.  
Drop-in Thursday 11:30-12:30 | Read: Chapter 3 – Dynamics of Capitalism: Why is economic growth so uneven?  
Watch: Lecture – Chapter 3  
Watch: In Focus: The Ship Breakers of Bangladesh  
Watch: Video – How to do well on an online quiz  
**Complete Quiz # 1: (Covers chapters 1 and 2) Friday Oct 2nd by 5pm**  
Read: Assignment #1 description  
Watch: Video – How to Approach Assignment # 1  
Watch: Video – How to make infographics (full length lecture)  
Watch Videos – Assignment 1 preparation - How to find and evaluate information for Assignment 1 |
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| 5 (Oct 5)             | Conceptual Foundations: Networks/connections | Read: Chapter 4- Networks: How is the World Economy Interconnected?  
Watch: Lecture – Chapter 4  
Watch: Lecture – In Focus: The Latte Revolution  
BEFORE YOUR SEMINAR:  
Read: Make sure you have done readings and lectures for this week AND look through resource materials for seminar 2  
Complete Assignment preparation Tutorial quiz by Friday October 9th 5pm to receive a bonus 1% on Assignment #1. |
| 6 (Oct 12)            | NOTE: Tuesday is Fall Study Break. University closed.  
Key Actors: Labour | Read: Chapter 6: Labour – Are migrant workers the new normal?  
Watch: Lecture – Chapter 6  
Watch: In Focus: TBA  
Complete: Half-way point feedback survey (invitation will be e-mailed to you) |
| 7 (Oct 19)            | Key Actors: Consumers  
Virtual Office Hours. Drop-in Thursday 11:30-12:30 | Read: Chapter 7: Consumers – who decides what we buy?  
Watch: Lecture – Chapter 7  
Watch: In Focus: TBA  
Assignment #1 due Friday October 23rd by 5pm. |
| 8 (Oct 26)            | Governing the Economy: States and International Institutions  
Virtual Seminar #3 (Tuesday: Groups 1 and 2) (Thursday: Groups 3 and 4) | Read: Chapter 9 states (9.1-9.3), Chapter 10 - international institutions  
Watch: Lecture – Chapter 9  
Watch: In Focus: TBA  
Watch: Lecture – Chapter 10  
Watch: In Focus: TBA  
BEFORE SEMINAR:  
(Note: Seminar is based on week 7 content)  
Fill out activity sheet and bring it to seminar  
Watch: Video – How to complete Assignment 2 |
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<td>9 (Nov 2)</td>
<td>Governing the Economy: Environment</td>
<td>Read: Chapter 11 – Environment: Does Global Climate Change change everything? Watch: Lecture – Chapter 11 Watch: In Focus: TBA Watch: Video – Klein, this changes everything</td>
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<td>12 (Nov 23)</td>
<td>Social and Cultural Dimensions: Diverse Economies</td>
<td>Read: Chapter 14 – Alternatives: Can we create diverse economies? Watch: Lecture – Chapter 14 Watch: In Focus: TBA</td>
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<td>13 (Nov 30)</td>
<td>Course Summary/Exam Review Exam preparation</td>
<td>Read: Anything you missed this semester! Watch: Lecture – Course Conclusions and Review Watch: Video - How to prepare for and complete take-home exams Watch: Video – How to take these ideas forward into future course work/jobs Take-home exam available Dec 4th, due Dec 14th by 5pm</td>
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Additional required readings (available on CourseLink):

Key requirements and details

**Seminar activities:** There will be 4 virtual classes throughout the semester (see class schedule for dates) in which seminar/lab type exercises will take place. Students are required to attend the classes and complete the activity to the satisfaction of the instructor and/or TA by the end of the class session to receive marks. This will be illustrated to us by you completing the post-seminar quiz function on CourseLink. Students may need to prepare ahead of time for the seminar (e.g. by reading a specific newspaper article) but will not need to spend more than a few minutes completing the post-seminar “quiz”. The “quiz” is not a test, it is just the easiest way technologically for you to submit the deliverable from the seminar which shows that you attended and participated. If you are unable to attend the seminar due to technological or other reasons you may talk to the TA about an alternative assignment.

**Quizzes:** There are two online quizzes scheduled through the semester. They are designed to encourage you to review and understand course content and help you practice the format that will be used on the take-home exam (a case study analysis).

**Assignments:** Please download and read assignments #1 and #2 in their entirety. Also make yourself familiar with instructor policies (below) regarding grading, late assignments, and the student responsibility to ensure assignment files successfully upload to CourseLink. Keep reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments as you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

**Exam:** There will be a final take-home exam in this course. More details about the exam will follow.

Instructor Policy Statements

**Disclaimer:** Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website [hyperlink to the website] and circulated by email.

**Illness:** The University will not require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for the fall 2020 or winter 2021 semesters.

**Academic Integrity.** Students are expected to undertake this course with honesty and integrity, and to understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. If you have uncertainty about how to avoid plagiarism in your writing, please refer to the Academic Calendar, the university-produced tutorial (https://academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/plagiarism) and/or see the course TA, a university librarian, or the instructor. Plagiarism and other types of misconduct will not be tolerated, and any instances will be treated seriously.
Communication. Please check your university email account and the 'news' section of the GEOG*2230 Courselink page once every 1-2 business days. Any important information arising throughout the semester will be communicated by these means and the university mandates that students must check them. The instructor and TA will do their best to respond to emails within 1-2 business days. Questions with answers that can be found in course documents will receive short replies (e.g., “please see course syllabus”). Students must use proper punctuation and professional language when emailing the instructor or TA.

Assignment submission, grading and grade reviews, and monitoring your Courselink gradebook. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they are clear on when, where, and in what format assignments are due, to track when in-class activities will occur, and in the case of assignments submitted via Courselink, to double-check that the upload has worked successfully and that your uploaded files are not corrupt. When the instructor or TA encounters a corrupt or incorrect file during grading, they will contact the student and offer a chance to resend; however, late deductions from the original due date will apply.

Course-work related deliverables will only be accepted as scheduled in the syllabus and seminar activity hand-ins will only be accepted on the day of your seminar (until the “quiz” closes). For assignments, a penalty of 10% of the total assignment grade will be deducted when a student misses the deadline; an additional 10% deduction will be made every 24 hours thereafter, including Saturdays and Sundays. Students who encounter problems due to a medical or personal reason should speak to the instructor as soon as possible (ideally on or before the due date).

It is the student’s responsibility to check their Courselink class gradebook weekly to ensure that all grades are entered and accurate. If any concerns arise with regards to assignment grades or grading, the student must immediately visit instructor office hours or request an appointment. Requests to review or revisit assignment grades must be made within 10 days after they are released in the gradebook; thereafter, it is likely that the instructor will deny requests and that the grade will stand as final.

University Policy Statements

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement. When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. Please note that The University will not require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for the fall 2020 or winter 2021 semesters.

Accessibility. The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or visit the SAS website.

Academic Misconduct. The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the
responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**E-mail Communication.** As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly. E-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

**Drop Date.** The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, December 4th, 2020.

**Copies of out-of-class assignments.** Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

**Recording of Materials.** Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded, copied or distributed without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. This includes all online course content.

**Resources.** The Undergraduate Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.