

SIERRA NEVADA COLLEGE

SYLLABUS

Political-Economic Geography - 80218 - INTL 221 - 1

Semester: Fall 2017

General Information:

<u>Faculty:</u>	Justin J. Spees, MBA
<u>Telephone:</u>	775.241.3818
<u>Office Hours:</u>	TBD
<u>Office Location:</u>	TCES (upstairs cubicles)
<u>E-Mail:</u>	jspees@sierranevada.edu
<u>Teaching Schedule:</u>	Monday/ Wednesday 5:30pm-6:45pm
<u>Credit:</u>	3 hours
<u>Required Text:</u>	Joseph J. Hobbs. 2017. <u>Fundamentals of World Regional Geography</u> (4th Edition). Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9781305578265, 1305578260
<u>Final Exam:</u>	TBD
<u>Prerequisites:</u>	Senior standing or consent of the instructor.

Course Description:

This course discusses the political geography of the modern world and the spatial relations between its system of nation-states. It also surveys the world's political, economic and demographic patterns, including form of governance, trade, finance, economic cooperation, environment, GNP, health, culture, language, etc.

Course Objectives:

The goals of the course are to engage students in the contemporary issues of economic life, expose them to current research questions in economic geography, and provide tools to interpret complex economic problems from a geographic perspective.

Students will be able to offer perspectives in discussions related to the following questions:

Why are some parts of the world more economically developed than others? Why do some regions grow faster than others? Why do some industries succeed in specific places and fail elsewhere?

While these questions remain important today, new questions are being raised regarding everyday economic practices. The following themes will be discussed throughout the course: issues of livelihood, work, consumption and lifestyle, gender, ethnic networks, corporate culture, money and finance, etc.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize patterns of economic inequality and identify the processes that underlie them.
3. Analyze the processes of globalization and identify its costs, benefits and contradictions.
4. Draw connections between global economic restructuring and the functioning of local economies in different places across the world and understand the links between the economic, political, social and cultural forces shaping economies.
5. Properly define the major world regions based on cultural, political, economic, and natural criteria.
6. Analyze why regional geography is relevant to understanding our world today.
7. Compare and contrast the student's own world region with others across the globe.
8. Understand how natural environments affect human actions and how human activities affect natural environments.
9. Compare major political systems and how they affect economic policies.

Approximate Timetable and Schedule of Class Activities:

The order of topics, tests, assignments, etc. is presented in this syllabus. The Instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus as the semester progresses and the particular needs of the class emerge.

These changes will be announced in class. It is the responsibility of the individual student to stay

informed about any changes in topic order, tests dates, etc.

Course Requirements and Methods of Evaluation:**Grading System:**

Your grade will be determined by:

- (1) class preparation assignments (CPAs) or homework and
- (2) quizzes, class participation, presentations, and exams.

<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	94% and above
A-	90% - 93%
B+	88% - 89%
B	84% - 87%
B-	80% - 83%
C+	78% - 79%
C	74% - 77%
C-	70% - 73%
D+	68% - 69%
D	64% - 67%
D-	60% - 63%
F	59% and below

Homework:

There will be a minimum of 10 class preparation assignments (CPAs), also referred to as "homework". For each assignment you will have to answer questions and complete exercises/problems over the assigned reading . All CPAs or homework assignments will be graded as "pass" or "fail". To earn credit for a CPA you must:

1. Give a good faith effort on each and every question.
2. Attend class to modify and expand your answers and add value to the discussion.

If you do not show a good faith effort on all of the assignment's questions, or you miss class (even if you have answered all of the assignment questions), you will not earn credit for that CPA.

Please ensure that your homework represents your OWN work. While students are encouraged to work together, your answers must reflect your own original work.

Quizzes:

There will be pop quizzes worth a total of **100 points**. Each quiz will be worth 10-20 points.

The quiz questions will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, problemsolving, and/or essay. If you miss a quiz and do not receive an excused absence, you will receive a zero on that quiz. If you have an excused absence for a quiz, please speak to the instructor for a makeup assignment.

Exams:

There are two exams worth a total of **300 points**. The exam questions will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, problem-solving, and/or essay. The final exam will be cumulative. If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero if you do not have an excused absence.

Exam 1 (150 points)

Final Exam (150 points)

Class Participation and Current Events:

100 total points will be based on class participation. We learn by being actively involved and engaged, and we therefore expect you to come to class prepared. We will ask many questions. Class participation is designed to engage you in the learning process, and to maximize what you learn in this class. As part of your class participation grade, you should be reading, listening, and viewing the news. For each class, you should be prepared to discuss a "global issue".

You may be called upon to lead a discussion of the "global issue" that you have brought to class. One or more students will be asked to brief the class on "global Issues", including the pros and cons associated with the subject matter.

Class participation grades will be assigned based on the following criteria:

- A: 90-100 Student is actively engaged in every class. Answers multiple questions each class. Excels at answering the harder questions. Always prepared. All homework or CPAs completed.
- B: 80-89 Student frequently participates in class, but does not excel every class. Answers many questions; sometimes answers the harder questions. Prepared most of the time, but not always. Performance is good, but not consistently excellent. Most homework or CPAs completed.
- C: 70-79 Student attends class and answers some questions, but performance is not consistent. Student is engaged in some classes and disengaged in others. Student answers correctly most questions I ask, but does little beyond that. Student knows the basics from the CPAs, but cannot go beyond that. Approximately half of the homework completed.
- D: 60-69 Student attends class. Only answers questions that I ask. Student pays attention in class, but reluctantly participates. Student seldom volunteers to answer questions. Student is present in class, but rather passive. Less than half of the homework completed.
- F: < 60 Student does not attend all classes. Seldom answers questions correctly even when asked. Comes to class unprepared to answer the basic

questions from the CPAs. Seldom volunteers for anything, very passive, sometimes disruptive behavior. Usually seems to be present only in body, but not in mind and spirit. Takes notes and hopes that he/she will not have to speak. Less than half of the homework completed.

Your overall grade for your CPAs/homework assignments are included in your class participation grade as noted above.

Op-ed piece. In order to develop their skills in constructing concise arguments about international topics, students are asked to write an imaginary “op-ed piece” for a major media outlet on a topic or issue of contemporary significance. Specific topics for the op-ed will be discussed as the deadline draws nearer. Op-eds should be 800-1,000 words, or three-to-four pages. The op-ed assignment is worth 100 points.

Map Test. Americans in the 18-to-24 age group came next to last in a nine-nation survey of geographic literacy conducted by the National Geographic Society in 2002. This course aims to tackle this problem by encouraging students’ awareness of and familiarity with major world countries and geographical features. The map quiz is worth 100 points.

Research paper: The purpose of this assignment is to help you to develop your knowledge and outlook on a specific issue of significance in the field of Political Economic Issues. The paper should be about twelve pages in length (no fewer than ten and no more than fourteen). **The research paper is worth 200 points; your presentation is worth 100 points.** You will be expected to present your research paper in class. This project/paper may be done as a group project (not to exceed three people per team). You will present your paper in class. Your presentation is worth 100 points. Your presentation must be interactive and include media or other visual resources

(power point is not considered interactive or a visual resource).

Summary of Grade Points

Homework	100
Exams	300
Class Participation	100
Op-Ed	100
Map Test	100
Research Paper	200
Presentation	<u>100</u>
Total	<u>1000</u>

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism**The SNC Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which

they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations:

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations.

Possible accommodations for disabilities include extended testing time, test-taking in isolation, computer use for test taking, tape recorders in class, study skills counseling, and share notetaking

in classes. If a student wishes to request an accommodation in one of his or her classes, the student should contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831 1314 x7475, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the 3rd floor of Prim Library, within the first week of the semester.

The SNC E-Mail System:

The SNC e-mail system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college e-mail accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC e-mail account.

Class Schedule

M 8/21 Orientation and Class Overview

W 8/23 Why Does Geography Matter?

Due: Read Chapter 1

Class discussion: chapter 1- review questions #1 and #10

M 8/28 Why Does Geography Matter?

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 1 reading

W 8/30 Physical Processes That Shape The World

Due: Read chapter 2

Class discussion: chapter 2 - review questions #8 and #10

M 9/4 Labor Day - No Class

W 9/6 Human Processes That Shape World Regions

Due: Read chapter 3

Due: Answer any 2 review questions and bring them to class for discussion. You will turn them in at the end of class.

M 9/11 Human Processes That Shape World Regions

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 3 reading.

W 9/13 Region: Europe

Due: Read chapter 4

Due: Answer any 3 review questions and bring them to class for discussion. You will turn them in at the end of class.

M 9/18 Region: Europe

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 4 reading.

W 9/20 Region: Russia And The Near Abroad

Due: Read Chapter 5

Due: Answer any 3 review questions and bring them to class for discussion. You will turn them in at the end of class.

M 9/25 Region: Russia And The Near Abroad

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 5 reading.

W 9/27 Region: The Middle East And North Africa

Due: Read Chapter 6

Due: Review questions will be assigned. You will turn them in at the end of class.

M 10/2 Region: The Middle East And North Africa

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 6 reading.

W 10/4 Review for Midterm

M 10/9 Mid-term exam

W 10/11 Region: Monsoon Asia

Due: Review questions will be assigned. You will turn them in at the end of class.

M 10/16 Region: Monsoon Asia

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 7 reading.

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W 10/18 Region: Oceania

Due: Review questions will be assigned. You will turn them in at the end of class.

M 10/23 Region: Oceania

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 8 reading.

W 10/25 Region: Sub- Saharan Africa

Due: Review questions will be assigned. You will turn them in at the end of class.

M 10/30 Region: Sub- Saharan Africa

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 9 reading.

M 11/6 Region: Latin America

Due: Review questions will be assigned. You will turn them in at the end of class.

W 11/8 Region: Latin America

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 10 reading.

M 11/13 Prepare For Map quiz

W 11/15 Map Quiz and Op- Ed Topic Discussion

M 11/20 and W 11/22 No Class Thanksgiving Break

M 11/27 Region: The United States and Canada

Due: Review questions will be assigned. You will turn them in at the end of class.

W 11/29 Discussion of Op- ed Papers

Form groups and choose topic for group project

Due: OP-ED paper due

M 12/4 Region: The United States and Canada (continued discussion)

Group project work day- second half of class

Due: Be prepared to discuss a current event related political economic geography and the Chapter 10 reading.

W 12/6 Group Project Work Day

M 12/11 and W 12/13 Group Project Presentations

Final Exam TBD

****Syllabus is Subject to Change****