Course Description

The seminar is Part II of the two-semester long seminar on Economic Geography. The two-part series is designed to provide a solid foundation in the historical and contemporary literature in economic geography. Part I is devoted to the historical literature on economic thought that have significance relevance to economic geography, and Part II mainly deals with contemporary literature and most recent debates. Readings will relate mainly to Anglo-American World, but pertinent material on other countries will also be covered in some of the readings and discussions.

The course demands a heavy reading load and active class participation (50% of grade). Each week, we will select at least three articles from the weekly reading list in the syllabus and discuss/critique the substance, theoretical orientations, intellectual trajectory, implicit assumptions, and methodological choice. Students are required to conduct a presentation on the readings of their choice. In addition, two short essays are required addressing themes in the course (50% of grade).

Students are expected to do the required readings prior to attending a lecture and are urged to bring up opposing points of view in class. All required readings are found in CICADA. Some of the readings can be skimmed, others should be read with care. Guidance on this will be provided as the semester proceeds.

Course Outline:

Week 1: No class

Week 2: 9/8: Introduction to Economic Geography: A Historical Overview
Week 3: 9/15: Regional Disparity, Regional Development

Week 4: 9/22: Spatial Competition, Deindustrialization, and Anglo-American Economic Crisis

Week 5: 9/29: Taylorism, Fordism and the French Regulation School

Week 6: 10/6: Post-Fordism and Flexible Specialization

Week 7: 10/13: Columbus Day. NO CLASS

Week 8: 10/20: Industrial Districts and Clusters


Week 10: 11/3: Institutional Paradigms: Institutions, Norms, and Tacit Knowledge [First Essay Due in Class]

Week 11: 11/10: Embeddedness, Social Networks, and Face-to-Face Contacts

Week 12: 11/17: Shifting Scale to the Global: Chains, Flows, and Limits

Week 13: 11/24: Capitalism and Neoliberalism

Week 14: 12/1: New Economic Geographies: Cultural Turn, Relational Turn and Geographical Economics

Week 15a: 12/8: Methodological Debates in Economic Geography

Week 15b: 12/9 [TUESDAY but running Monday Schedule]: Topics in Economic Geography

12/16: [Second Essay Due at 4pm]

Readings:

Week 1: No Class

Week 2: Introduction to Economic Geography: A Historical Overview


Chapter 1: “Manufacturing and Manufacturers”
Chapter 2: “Approaches to the Study of Industrial Location.”

**Week 3: Regional Disparity, Regional Development**


Chapter 1: “Theories of Regional Self-Balance.”
Chapter 2: “Theories of Regional Imbalance.”
Chapter 6: “Structure versus the Regions.”


Chapter 2: “Social Relations and Spatial Organization”
Chapter 3: “Uneven Development and Spatial Structures”

**Week 4: Spatial Competition, Deindustrialization, and Anglo-American Economic Crisis**

Barry Bluestone and Bennett Harrison (1982). Managerial Capitalism and Economic Crisis, 1971-. Chapter in *Deindustrialization of America: Plant Closings,*

Chapter 1: “The Inconstant Geography of Capitalism”
Chapter 2: “Industrialization as Disequilibrium Growth”


Chapter 7: The Mass-Production Economy in Crisis [CICADA]

Week 5: Taylorism, Fordism and the French Regulation School

Chapter 1: “The American System of Manufacture.”
Chapter 2: “Big Business: Mass Production and Managerial Hierarchy.” [CICADA]


Chapter 2: Transformations in the Labour Process.


**Week 6: Post-Fordism and Flexible Specialization**

Chapter 10: Possibilities for Prosperity: International Keynesianism and Flexible Specialization


Chapter 9: “The Dark Side of Flexible Specialization.”

Chapter 3: “The Rise of Lean Production.”

Paul Hirst and Jonathan Zeitlin. “Flexible Specialization versus Post-Fordism.” [CICADA]

**Week 7: Columbus Day. No Class**
Week 8: Industrial Districts and Clusters


Chapter 3: The organization of industrial production


Week 10: Institutional Paradigms: Institutions, Norms, and Tacit Knowledge


Gertler, Meric 2003. “Tacit Knowledge and the Economic Geography of Context, or the undefinable tacitness of being (there)” *Journal of Economic Geography* 3 75-99. [CICADA]


**Week 11: Embeddedness, Social Networks, and Face-to-Face Contacts**


AnnaLee Saxenian. “Regional Networks and Innovation in Silicon Valley and Route 128.” Chapter in Acs (ed.), *Regional Innovation, Knowledge and Global Change*. London: Pinter, 123-138 [CICADA].


**Week 12: Shifting Scale to the Global: Chains, Flows, and Limits**


**Week 13: Capitalism and Neoliberalism**


Chapter 4: How do we get out of this Capitalist Place?

Chapter 6: Querying Globalization.


**Week 14: New Economic Geographies: Cultural Turn, Relational Turn and Geographical Economics**

**The Cultural Turn:**


Relational Turn:


Geographical Economics:


**Week 15A: Methodological Debates in Economic Geography**


**Week 15B: Special Topics in Economic Geography [TBD]**

This session provides an opportunity for students to bring in readings of their interest and lead discussions on how it may be linked to the literature covered in class. I will provide a supplementary reading list on topics such as MNEs, finance, consumption, work and entrepreneurship. In addition, we welcome topics in environmental economic geography, feminist geography, urban planning, labor economics, economic sociology, and political economy.