

Economic Geography

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Online Summer 2020: Session #1
26 May – 2 July

Quick Course Info

Course Number GEOG 320 (CRN: 96900)
UH Focus designation WI
Instructor Jacob Henry
Email jacoblh@hawaii.edu

Do I need to buy books? No, everything is on Laulima
Meeting Times Online, asynchronous. There is no Zoom component

Total Course Points 100
Grading Scale 90=A, 80=B, 70=C, 60=D, 59=F
Extra credit Yes, 3 points

What You'll Be Doing

See the appendix for extended descriptions.

Topical Research Paper 3,000-word final research paper composed in sections over the term
52 points total
Topic Proposal: 4 pts
Preliminary Bibliography: 4 pts
Revised Direction: 3 pts
First Draft: 20 pts
Peer Review: 8 pts
Final Revision: 12 pts

Reading Journals 300-500-word critical analysis of the weekly readings.
48 points *Due Sundays at 11:59*

Resubmissions & “Stuff Happen” Cards

I encourage resubmitting assignments. Once you get my feedback, you may submit a new version provided that:

1. The new version is significantly revised (not just changing some grammar or typos).
2. You contacted me to discuss your re-submission plan before you begin re-writing.

You have 3 “**stuff happens (SH)**” cards which allow you to submit something late, no questions asked, no penalty. Please send an email notifying me when you'd like to use one, and when you plan to submit the work. You cannot use a 'SH' card on anything due during the last week of the course since I have a tight deadline to submit grades.

Course Overview

Week	Date	Theme	To-Dos	Due
Week 1	May 26 - 31	Spaces of Poverty & Wealth	Reading Journal #1	May 31
Week 2	June 1 - 7	The Modern Economy	Topic Proposal Prelim Bibliography Reading Journal #2	June 4 June 7 June 7
Week 3	June 8 - 14	Life & Death of Commodities	Revised Direction Reading Journal #3	June 14 June 14
Week 4	June 15 – 21	Illicit Economies	First Draft Reading Journal #4	June 20 June 21
Week 5	June 22 – 28	Jobs	Peer Review Reading Journal #5	June 24 June 28
Week 6	June 29 – July 2	Alternative Economies	Final Version Paper Reading Journal #6 Extra Credit	July 2 July 3 July 5

Course Outline

I suggest that you read the readings in the order I've listed them here. You can find all the readings/links in Resources tab of Laulima

Week 1. Spaces of Wealth, Spaces of Poverty

We live in a deeply unequal, deeply divided world. This week we examine how inequality manifests in micro-spaces, like neighborhoods as well as how it manifests within the world as a whole. How did we come to be in such a lopsided position?

Jacob's Weekly Primer

CBS This Morning. 2020. **Americans Know Wealth Inequality Is a Problem, but What Does It Look Like?** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DANUXO-GQwU>. [6 mins.]

Aoyama, Yuko, James T. Murphy, and Susan Hanson. 2011. "**Financialization**" in *Key Concepts in Economic Geography*. 103-110. London: SAGE.

BBC World Service. 2020. "**Tulips.**" 50 Things That Made the Modern Economy. [10 mins.]

Sassen, Saskia. 2014. "**The Savage Sorting**" in *Expulsions: Brutality and Complexity in the Global Economy*. 1-12. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Davis, Mike. 2006. "**SAPing the Third World**" in *Planet of Slums*. 151-173. New York: Verso.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2014. "**The Case for Reparations.**" *The Atlantic*, June. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>.

Rodney, Walter. 1972. "The Example of Unilever as a Major Beneficiary of African Exploitation" in *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. 180-185. Baltimore: Black Classic Press.

Kincaid, Jamaica. 2000. **Part II of A Small Place**. 23-37. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

To-Do

1. Reading Journal #1: Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 2. The Modern Economy

Since the 1980s, the world has been engulfed in neoliberal policy. This week, we dive into neoliberalism (sometimes called post-Fordism) as a socio-cultural and economic ideology and practice. We investigate where the ideas came from and examine three cases of the effects of neoliberalization on people.

Jacob's Weekly Primer

Chaplin, Charlie. 1936. **Modern Times**. Beverly Hills: United Artists. <https://hawaii.kanopy.com/video/modern-times>. [87 mins].

Mitchell, Katharyne. 2018. "Spatial Divisions of Labour and the Search for Jobs" in *Making Workers: Radical Geographies of Education*. 3-24. London: Pluto Press.

Harvey, David. 2005. "Introduction" in *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. 1-4. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Harvey, David. 2005. "The Construction of Consent" in *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. 39-64. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

McDowell, Linda. 2009. "Up Close and Personal: Intimate Work in the Home" in *Working Bodies: Interactive Service Employment and Workplace Identities*. 79-98. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.

Deuchar, Andrew, and Jane Dyson. 2020. "Between Unemployment and Enterprise in Neoliberal India: Educated Youth Creating Work in the Private Education Sector." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 1–13.

Sharone, Ofer. 2007. "Constructing Unemployed Job Seekers as Professional Workers: The Depoliticizing Work-Game of Job Searching." *Qualitative Sociology* 30 (4): 403–16.

To-Do

1. Topic Proposal: Wednesday June 4
2. Preliminary Bibliography: Sunday June 7
3. Reading Journal #2: Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 3. The Life and Death of Commodities

The economy really is global. In fact, it's quite difficult to trace the commodity chains which provide us with the goods we consume. In this complexity, there is room for confusion which can hide processes we aren't comfortable with. And we should remember that commodities have lives long after we are done with them. There are fewer readings this week since you will also be reading for your paper.

Jacob's Weekly Primer

BBC World Service. 2016. "Shipping Container." 50 Things That Made the Modern Economy. [9 mins.]

Cook, Ian. 2004. "Follow the Thing: Papaya." *Antipode* 36 (4): 642–64.

Redmon, David. 2005. **Mardi Gras: Made in China**. Carnavalesque Films. <https://hawaii.kanopy.com/video/mardi-gras-made-china-0>. [73 mins.]

To-Do

1. Revised Direction: Sunday June 14
2. Reading Journal #3: Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 4. Illicit Economies

Lots of economic activity happens underground. This week, we will read about some of the best-known examples of illicit economies: sex, drugs, and bodies. We will get to know some of the people who take part in shadow economies and begin to understand some of the motivations and dangers inherent in these ways of making a living. There are fewer readings this week since you will also be drafting your paper.

Jacob's Weekly Primer

Sassen, Saskia. 2000. "**Women's Burden: Counter-Geographies of Globalization and the Feminization of Survival.**" *Journal of International Affairs* 53 (2): 503–24.

Bourgois, Philippe. 2002. "**Understanding Inner-City Poverty: Resistance and Self-Destruction under U.S. Apartheid.**" In *Exotic No More: Anthropology on the Front Lines*, edited by Jeremy MacClancy, 15–32. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 2004. "**The Last Commodity: Post Human Ethics and the Global Traffic in Fresh Organs.**" In *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*, edited by Aihwa Ong and Stephen J. Collier, 145–68. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.

To-Do

1. First Draft: Saturday June 20
2. Reading Journal #4: Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 5. Jobs

Wages are the main way that wealth is distributed in today's society (and not just in the Global North, as we will see). However, as capital has globalized and automated, the chances of getting a 'good' job has dramatically diminished. Scales have tipped too far in the favor of capital. Some call on the state to guarantee jobs. But we should also stop to ask whether jobs are a good technique of wealth distribution or are even healthy for human beings?

Jacob's Weekly Primer

ILO, (International Labour Office). 2020. "**Executive Summary**" in *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2020*. 11-14. Geneva: International Labour Office.

Graeber, David. 2013. "**On the Phenomenon of Bullshit Jobs: A Work Rant.**" *STRIKE!*, August 2013. <https://www.strike.coop/bullshit-jobs/>.

Pierce, Joseph, Mary Lawhon, and Tyler McCreary. 2019. "**From Precarious Work to Obsolete Labour? Implications of Technological Disemployment for Geographical Scholarship.**" *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography* 101 (2): 84–101.

Ralph, Michael. 2008. "**Killing Time.**" *Social Text* 97 (4): 1–29.

Russell, Bertrand. 1932. "**In Praise of Idleness.**" *Harper's Magazine*, October 1932. <https://harpers.org/archive/1932/10/in-praise-of-idleness/?single=1>.

Lafargue, Paul. 1907. "**The Rights of Horse and the Rights of Man**" in *The Right to Be Lazy and Other Studies*. Translated by Charles H. Kerr. 157-164. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Company.

To-Do:

1. Peer Review: Tuesday: Due June 23
2. Reading Journal #5: Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 6. Alternative Economies

Lots of alternatives to the present economic situation exist in the here and now. Rather than rely on revolutions to create more just societies, these readings examine how smaller insurgencies can dramatically change our relations to production. We also learn more about universal basic income and some ways to “pay for it”

Jacob's Weekly Primer

Lee, Richard B. 1998. “**Non-Capitalist Work: Baseline For An Anthropology Of Work Or Romantic Delusion?**” *Anthropology of Work Review* 18 (4): 9–13.

Gibson-Graham, J. K. 2006. “**Surplus Possibilities: The Internal Economy of Mondragón**” in *A Postcapitalist Politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Ferguson, James. 2015. “**Give a man a fish: from patriarchal productionism to the revalorization of distribution.**” in *Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Weeks, Kathi. 2011. “**“Hours for What We Will”: Work, Family, and the Demand for Shorter Hours**” in *The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Fouksman, E., and E. Klein. 2019. “**Radical Transformation or Technological Intervention? Two Paths for Universal Basic Income.**” *World Development* 122: 492–500.

Vox. 2019. **A Better Way to Tax the Rich.** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTwPHuE_HrU. [4 mins.]

Potter, Robert B., et. al., 2012. “**Tobin-Type Taxes**” in *Key Concepts in Development Geography*. 239-242. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

To-Do:

1. Final Version Due: Thursday July 2
2. Reading Journal #6: Friday July 3
3. Extra Credit due Saturday July 5

The Other Stuff

The Syllabus

It is subject to change. If something changes, I'll send you an email.

Emailing

I'm pretty good with email. However, I do get 24 hours to respond, but in most cases, I'll respond much quicker. I am currently based at the University of Namibia, which is 12 hours ahead of Honolulu, so I thank you in advance for your patience with middle-of-the-night emails. Feel free to call me “Jacob” in our emails (if you're more comfortable with “Professor Henry,” that's fine too).

Course Description

This course examines how factors of production like land, labor and capital; economic activities like consumption, trade, production, and investments; and institutions like state, markets, and corporations alter economic space. Students will study how global economic relationships permeate place-making, critically analyze the limits of ‘productivism’, and consider critical “alternative” spatio-economic relationships. This is a human geography course.

Plagiarizing

Don't do it. The best way to not plagiarize? Cite furiously! It's on you to know what plagiarism is, but I'm always happy to answer questions about it.

Zotero

If aren't using Zotero for citation management, I'd suggest you look into it. It's a free, open access program that many professors use to automate bibliographies and citations. <https://www.zotero.org/>

APPENDIX 1: READING JOURNALS

Points: 8 points each

Due: Sundays at 11:59 (the final Journal is due on Thursday 2 July at 11:59)

Length: >300 – 500 words

Submission: Submit in the Assignments tab of Laulima

We all come to this material from different scholarly backgrounds. Some of the reading are technical and challenging. Some concepts will be new. We also have different political commitments that dramatically shape how we view economy and space.

Each week, you will submit a Reading* Journal to me via the Laulima Dropbox. Other students will not be able to read these journals. You are only sharing your weekly reading journal with me only. Sometimes I'll send some comments, sometimes not. **I use "readings" to include text, video, audio etc.*

Three Sections of a Reading Journal:

1: New Concepts

List all the concepts which were new to you. These could be 'jargon' you've never heard of or they might be concepts you've heard of, but never really gotten a good definition for. As you are doing the readings, just keep a note of the new concepts. You can also list concepts that you've heard of but the author presents them in a new way. Naturally, some weeks will have more than others—there's no correct number of concepts to list here. Please list them like this:

Concept: An in-your-own-words definition of what it means or describes. (The article where you found the concept)

2: Commentary (300 words, minimum)

The goal here is not to summarize the readings, but to offer an insightful commentary on them. Ideally, the analysis makes a central argument or claim about the readings. Demonstrate familiarity with this week's materials. Your tone may be informal, but you should write clearly and competently.

You might identify connections across readings and previous weeks, discuss the relevance of the readings for your own interests. Avoid using too many quotes from the reading and avoid writing a mere summary; focus more on your reflections on/response to/critique of the readings. It is fine if you start with viewpoints from the reading, but always elaborate from your own response.

3: Questions

Please conclude with two provocative/analytical questions that came to you after doing all the week's readings.

APPENDIX 2: TOPICAL PAPER

This class utilizes a 'final term paper' assessment model. The components of this assignment account for more than half of your grade. This is also where we can work together to develop your longform academic writing (it is a writing intensive class, after all). The final version of the paper needs to **be 3,000 words (excluding bibliographies). This is about 10 pages double spaced.**

Topic Proposal

Points: 4 points
Due: 4 June at 11:59 pm (Laulima Discussions)
Length: 250 words, minimum

In this topic proposal you should tell us about the over-arching topic you will investigate in your paper. What interests you about this topic? How did you come about choosing it? What do you hope to learn? What do you anticipate the main argument/point of the paper being (i.e. what's the anticipated thesis statement?) What is the working title of the paper?

Luckily, just about everything can be understood from an economic geography perspective. In choosing a topic, be sure to avoid something too broad, for example:

- Democratic Socialism
- Economics in Africa
- Zapatistas
- Outsourcing
- China as Manufacturer

In general, you can rarely be too specific in a topic. Some example topics of appropriate narrowness might be:

- Paid Family Leave Impacts on Gender Relations in Scandinavia
- Role of Hukou in China's Economic Power
- Post-Apartheid Neoliberalism in South Africa
- Urban Redlining and its continued effects in Chicago
- Contrasting the differences between anarchist co-operative economies

My Response: I will comment on your Laulima discussion post with suggestions for refinement and any concerns.

Preliminary Bibliography

Points: 4 points
Due: 9 June at 11:59 pm (Laulima Discussions)
Length: 5 References

Please list five (5) full-length **journal articles** that you plan to read related to your topic. These should all be scholarly/academic sources which you can retrieve from the library and/or Google Scholar. You do not need to read these articles right now, just assemble a reading list. Do not list book reviews (short summaries of books).

It's fine if some of your articles are in sociology, anthropology, political science journals, but try to list articles from some of the following geography journals: *Geoforum*, *Environment and Planning D*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *Progress in Human Geography*, *Development and Change*, and *Antipode*.

My Response: I will add 2 journal articles to compliment your 5. This will bring your total to 7 articles you'll be reading for your project. Of course, you can always add more articles on your own. You should also use some of the course readings in your paper.

Revised Direction Statement

Points: 3 points
Due: 15 June at 11:55 pm (Laulima Discussions)
Length: 200 words minimum

Once you've read the readings in your bibliography, you should write a short statement on how your vision for the paper has changed given all this new information. How has your thesis/argument shifted? How has the reading list changed your thinking on the topic? What is the new title of your paper?

My Response: I will provide final advice on the concept of the paper before you set out to write a first draft.

First Draft

Points: 20 points
Due: 20 June at 11:59 pm (Laulima Dropbox)
Length: 2,000-2,500 words, excluding references
Please upload in a Word file, not a PDF.

This is a first draft. As indicated in the word count you should be **about 60-80% of the way done**. This could mean that you have very polished and sharp beginning sections and only a rough outline of the points you'll make in the final pages. Or, you might have a paper drafted from beginning to end but it still needs more evidence or to refine points. Even though I use the language of "first" draft. You really should proofread it a few times.

Make some notes **indicating areas you want to improve or arguments you want to flesh out**. Basically, what work still needs to be done? You can either do this in paragraph form at the end of the document or use the comment feature to indicate specific places in the text where you want to edit/add/refine further.

My Response: I will provide a thorough review of your paper (though I tend to match the effort you put in—if you give me an undercooked paper, I'll give you undercooked notes). I will also send an anonymized version of your paper to one of your classmates for review.

Peer Review Form

Points: 8 points
Due: 24 June at 11:59 pm (Laulima Dropbox)
Length: Complete the peer review form

Final Version

Points: 12 points
Due: 2 July at 11:59 pm (Laulima Dropbox)
Length: 3,000 words, excluding bibliography
Please upload in a Word file, not a PDF.

The final draft should reflect my, your, and the peer reviewer's desired improvements and be a polished research paper making coherent claims, using solid evidence. Do note that **these 12 points are for improvements**. If you **turn in your first draft** with only some spelling and punctuation fixed, then you're not going to score well because you didn't address all the big picture comments.