City College of San Francisco
Course Outline of Record

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION
A. Date of Approval
   1. Updated
   June 1, 1999
   August 16, 2007
B. Department
   Earth Sciences
C. Course Number
   Geography 7
D. Course Title
   Economic Geography
E. Course Outline Preparer
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F. Department Chairperson
   Darrel Hess
G. Dean
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II. COURSE SPECIFICS
A. Hours
   Three (3) lecture hours weekly
B. Units
   3
C. Prerequisite
   None
   Corequisite
   None
   Advisory
   None
D. Course Justification:
   Economic Geography is a transferable social science course introducing
   contemporary patterns of economic and urban geography. Topics include
   globalization of the economy, processes of industrialization and urbanization,
   transnational corporations, and changing patterns of world trade and
   manufacturing.
E. Field Trips
   As required by course content
F. Method of Grading
   Letter
G. Repeatability
   0

III. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
An introduction to economic geography. Topics include patterns and processes of
urbanization, industrialization, and the inter-linked global economy.
Contemporary issues such as international business and changing patterns of
manufacturing in the United States.
IV. MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:
A. Describe the historical development of urban and industrial regions of the United States.
B. Explain the concept of location rent and relate this to patterns of land use within cities.
C. Evaluate the importance of the “friction of distance” to settlement patterns and industrial location.
D. Describe and explain the rank-size rule relationship among cities.
E. Describe and evaluate Christaller’s “Central Place Theory.”
F. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Weber’s industrial location model.
G. Describe and explain the importance of scale economies and agglomeration to contemporary manufacturing patterns.
H. Interpret the upstream and downstream linkages in a manufacturing economy using the concept of a “multiplier.”
I. Explain the dynamics of contemporary industrial complexes.
J. Describe and explain the Burgess model of urban social organization.
K. Relate the social organization of modern cities to the spatial organization of the economy.
L. Describe and evaluate various measures of economic development.
M. Assess the role of transnational corporations in contemporary international trade, and relate these factors to changing patterns of manufacturing within the United States and around the world.

V. COURSE CONTENT
A. Introduction to economic geography
   1. Models and theory in economic geography
   2. Alternative explanations in economic geography
B. Historical geography of the economic and urban landscape
   1. Historical geography of the modern world economy
      a. Globalization of economy
   2. Historical geography of the American economic and urban landscape
C. Von Thünen land use model
   1. Location rent
   2. Intensive versus extensive land use
D. Urban land use patterns
   1. Economic rent in urban settings
   2. Urban von Thünen model
E. The rank-size rule
F. Christaller’s Central Place Theory
   1. Orders of goods and services
   2. Range and threshold of goods and services
   3. Arrangement of settlements under the “marketing principle”
G. Intra-urban retailing patterns
H. Transportation economics
   1. Terminal and line-haul costs
   2. Break of bulk locations
I. Weber's Industrial location model
   1. Least total transportation cost location
   2. Isodapanes

J. Scale economies and agglomeration
   1. Internal and external scale economies
   2. Internal economies of scale versus internal diseconomies of scale
   3. Localization economies and urbanization economies

K. Industrial evolution case studies
   1. Steel industry
   2. Automobile industry
   3. Garment industry
   4. Semiconductor and/or electronics industry

L. Industrial complexes
   1. Subcontracting and localization economies
   2. Craft-oriented industrial districts
   3. High technology production complexes such as Silicon Valley

M. Urban office and service activity

N. Urban social geography
   1. Chicago School and Burgess model of urban social organization
   2. Contemporary explanations of urban social organization

O. Gender and economy

P. Economic development
   1. Measuring and describing economic development
   2. Promoting economic development

Q. Transnational corporations and global economic change
   1. Traditional trade theory

R. Technological change and the dispersal of production
   1. The product cycle model
   2. Long wave model

S. Governments and international trade policy
   1. World Trade Organization (WTO)
   3. Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY
A. Assignments
   1. Reading from textbooks and handouts to provide basic understanding of topics detailed in V.
   2. Out-of-class written assignments that reinforce the understanding of concepts detailed in V, such as:
      a. Homework exercises using data to assess the rank-size rule for cities and the spatial organization of a Bay Area industry.
b. Review and assessment of current journal and/or newspaper article

3. In-class group discussion exercises that provide analytical and interpretive skills in topics such as:
   a. Definitions of capitalism
   b. Location patterns of industry

B. Evaluation
   1. Three to four written exams (including a written final exam) that measure the student’s ability to achieve the objectives indicated in IV.
   2. Assignments as described in VI.A.2.

C. Texts and other materials
   1. Instructor-generated handouts
   2. Reserve readings

or

3. Textbook such as


VII. REQUESTED CLASSIFICATION
   (X) CREDIT/DEGREE APPLICABLE (meets all standards of Title V. Section 5502(a)).