

ORGANIZATION OF ECONOMIC SPACE

CRN: #37572
M/W 10:00am-12:00 noon
184 Young Hall

No Final Exam

Instructor: Chris Benner
2333 Hart Hall
754-8799
ccbenner@ucdavis.edu
Office Hours: Mondays, 4:15-6:15 pm

TA: Carlos Becerra
cabecerra@ucdavis.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm
2331 Hart Hall

Class Overview

Advanced telecommunications, computer and transportation technologies are being used to dramatically transform the structure and dynamics of the economy, both in the U.S. and around the globe. Jobs and whole industries are changing, with significant implications for economic and social opportunities. New communications infrastructures simultaneously facilitate the intense concentration of economic control, and facilitate the diffusion of business and service networks across international distances. New communications technologies support economic agglomerations of unrivalled size and complexity, while also collapsing the barriers between the 'local' and the 'global', allowing some economic spaces to be more globally connected than locally tied in to their social milieu. Thus, these technological and economic changes are everywhere implicated in the growing inequality and social divisions that seem to be evident in all societies, as global connections are combined with local disconnections in complex ways.

This course examines these inter-relations between technological and economic change, and related processes of uneven development, in both developed and developing world contexts. It has two central objectives :

- To provide a broad and critical introduction to how globalization and new information and communications technologies are involved in all aspects of contemporary economic change; and
- To explore how policy, planning and community development strategies are responding to the challenges of these changes from an international perspective.

At the end of this course you should:

- Be able to think critically and theoretically about the relationships between technological change, globalization, and economic opportunity;
- Have a broad understanding of the community development issues related to economic and technological restructuring;
- Know critical arenas of research, including prominent researchers and information resources, within the field of globalization and economic geography.

Course Readings

Required book:

Dicken, Peter (2011) *Global Shift: Mapping the Changing Contours of the World Economy, Sixth Edition* (New York: Guilford Press)

There is also a companion web-site that has useful resources related to the textbook. It is linked from: www.guilford.com/p/dicken or you can access it directly here: <http://bit.ly/nLeR6t>

Recommended but not required:

Graham, Stephen and Simon Marvin (2001) *Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Conditions* (New York: Routledge)

Additional readings will be available in electronic form at the CRD 141 web-site in <http://smartsite.ucdavis.edu>. This site will also include other resources, including data and web-sites, that will be useful for the class.

Course Requirements and Grading

It is expected that everyone will do class readings and participate in class presentations. There will be periodic exercises in class related to the class reading for that day.

Research Project

The main course assignments are organized around developing a new research series called **Davis Student WAGES (Work and the Global Economy Studies)**. This research series will be published on the web, and highlight the best undergraduate research from this class on patterns of global economic restructuring and how this restructuring is affecting the livelihoods of workers and their communities throughout the globe. The URL for this resource is: <http://nextgenerationlabor.wordpress.com/ucdavis-student-wages/>

By the end of the quarter, each of you will be expected to have produced a **detailed research paper**, analyzing how a particular type of business, industry, or job (in the U.S. and/or another country of your own choice) has changed over the last 20-30 years, in the context of economic globalization and rapid technological development.

Additional guidelines for developing and conducting this research project will be distributed in class. Your research should address the following three broad questions:

1. *How has economic restructuring and technological change over the last 20-30 years affected the nature of your chosen job/business/industry? What is different today from 20-30 years ago? Has it grown or shrunk in size? Has it gotten more complex, or*

simplified? Has competition gotten more intense or not? Has it gotten more or less profitable, or pays more or less?

2. *Why has this job/business/industry changed in the ways that it has?* What role have corporations and other private sector actors played at a local, national and global scale? What role has government played, at a local, national, and global scale? What role have civil society actors played, at a local, national, and global scale?
3. *Who has benefitted from these changes and who has been hurt by these changes?* What kinds of businesses have profited, and what kinds have not? Which countries and communities have benefited and which haven't? What workers have benefited and what workers have been hurt?

Developing this research project will involve several steps:

1. Select a particular occupation or type of business/industry that interests you. Occupations could range from farmworkers, to University professors, to X-Ray technicians, to carpenters, to gold farmers, to the Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Businesses/industries might range from grocery stores, to automobile manufacturers, to internet search engines, to housing manufacturers. The only criteria is that it is something you are interested in, and that you have some awareness that the occupation/business has changed in some way in recent years as a result of global integration and/or technological change. The more specific you can be, the more focused your research efforts can be.
2. Conduct some preliminary research on this occupation/business, to help you clarify the focus of your research, and identify more specific research questions.
3. Write a 250-word summary of what you are planning to study and why

NOTE: This 250-word summary will be submitted in class on Wednesday, October 15. You have the opportunity to read other people's summaries, and reflect on lessons for your own analysis.

4. Develop and submit a 3-page research proposal, which clearly states:
 - a. What is your central research question?
 - b. Why is the question important?
 - c. What are the sources of data you will use to help answer the research question.

NOTE: This 3-page research proposal should be submitted electronically on Smartsite by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 24. This research proposal will be used to organize the class into forum groups of 4-6 people, based on common interests for step 5 below.

5. Develop a detailed 2-page outline of your argument. An outline involves creating clearly structured sections in your overall paper, with bullet points identifying the key points you expect to make in the final paper.

Note: This 2-page outline will be submitted in the Forum Section of smartsite by 5:00 pm Friday, November 21 at the latest. You will be expected to provide written feedback on this

outline to the other 3-5 people in your group on smartsite by 5 pm, Monday, December 1st at the latest.

6. Develop and write a 15-page research paper (20 pages max, double-spaced, 12-pt font) that answers your central research question. The paper should be analytical—describing the changes in the business/occupation that have occurred, and providing an explanation for why they have occurred.

NOTE: This final 15-20 page research paper should be submitted electronically on Smartsite. There are three possible due dates:

December 5th —comments and chance to revise

December 12th —grade and detailed comments

5pm, December 19th—Final date—grade and minimal comments

Grading:

Introductory Survey & Photo-smartsite	5%
Attendance & Class Participation	15%
250 word summary and feedback to others	10%
3-page research proposal	10%
2-page outline and feedback to others	15%
15-20 page research paper	45%

Student Code of Conduct

All students should be familiar with the Student Code of Academic Conduct that is located here <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.html>. Please review this carefully and ask your instructor, if you have any questions. Remember the instructor is obliged to refer you to Student Judicial Affairs in all cases of violation or suspected violation.

In addition to plagiarism and cheating on examinations, it is also a violation of the Code of Academic Conduct to use your own written materials from papers prepared for other classes, unless you take the following points into consideration.

It is permissible to use materials and texts from other class projects, within CRD or in other departments, under these conditions:

- (1) You inform the instructor beforehand.
- (2) You clearly identify the portions where you quote yourself (or collaborative work)
- (3) You provide a copy of the previous work you have submitted in the other class to the instructor.

- (4) To ensure that you receive a good grade, make sure that the quoted or reused parts fit seamlessly into the assignment for THIS class.
- (5) If you have any doubts about the extent to which you can use already written materials, please speak with the instructor or the TA prior to making any submission.”

Optional Activities

Interesting News Items: If you come across interesting news items related to the course content, feel free to share them with the class via the class listserv:

crd141-2014@smartsite.ucdavis.edu

Course Agenda

Note: Specific readings and schedule subject to change. Any changes will be indicated the week in advance in class, and will be made on smartsite.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics and Readings</u>
Week 1	Course Introduction and Overview
Oct 6-8	Course structure, expectations and assignments Complete introduction form and photo
	Changing Geographies of the Global Economy
	Economics 101: Understanding the basics
	Place, Space, Territory
	Values and power in economic life
	Globalization & Informatization
	Change and continuity in the global economy
	Cities, Territories and the Economy
	Constructing the Modern Networked City
	Collapse of the integrated ideal
	Firms, regions, and competitive dynamics

Readings by Wednesday:

Edward Castranova (2001) “ Virtual Worlds: A First-Hand Account of Market and Society on the Cyberian Frontier” CESifo *Working Paper No. 618*
December 2001

Dicken (2011), chapters 1-2, pp. 1-48

Recommended:

Graham & Marvin (2001), Prologue and chapters 1-3, pp. 1-135

Week 2 Firms and Enterprise Webs

Oct. 13- **250 word research summary due in class on Wednesday!!!**

15 *Movies: The Commanding Heights: Battle for the Global Economy (online)*

The Corporation (online)

Origins/structure of corporations

Process of transnationalizing
Enterprise webs and the network firm

Readings by Monday:

Dicken (2011) chapter 3-4, pp. 49-108

Readings by Wednesday:

Dicken (2011) chapter 5, pp. 109-168

Recommended:

Graham and Marvin (2001), chapter 7, pp. 304-376

Week 3 States, State Policy, and Global Financial/Trade Institutions

Oct.20- ***Research proposal due Friday, October 22nd!!***

22

Role of the state

Changing structures/dynamics of state activities

Variations in state policies

States and Transnational corporations

Multi-state actors in the global economy

Readings by Monday:

Dicken (2011) chapter 6, pp. 169-220

Readings by Wednesday:

Dicken (2011) chapter 7, pp. 221-240

Week 4 Global Civil Society

Oct. 27- ***Wednesday Film: This is What Democracy Looks Like*** (ID# 924551)

29

Labor, communities and economic change

Protests

World Social Forum

Globalization from below

Readings by Monday:

Herod, Andrew. 2002. "Organizing globally, organizing locally: Union spatial strategy in a global economy" Chapter 5 in Jeffrey Harrod and Robert O'Brian, eds. *Global Unions? Theory and strategies of organized labour in the global political economy*. New York and London: Routledge.

Readings by Wednesday:

Bond, Patrick (2011) "The World Social Forum" in *Third Sector Research* (Springer Science and Business Media)

Week 5 Extractive Industries—Oil, Mining, Water

Nov. 3- ***Wednesday Movie: Flow—For Love of Water*** (Netflix)

5

Production Circuits

Changing Technologies

State involvement

Corporate strategies

Civil Protests

Readings by Monday:

Dickens (2011) Chapter , pp. 243-270

Readings by Wednesday:

Postel, Sandra (2010) “Water: Adapting to a New Normal” in Richard Weinberg and Daniel Lerch, eds. *The Post Carbon Reader: Managing the 21st Century’s Sustainability*

Week 6 Agro-Food System

Nov.
10-12 Transformation of food economy
Global agro-food production circuits
Technology and good production
Consumption and distribution links
Building Local Afro-food systems

Readings by Monday:

Dicken (2011) Chapter 9, pp. 270-300

Readings by Wednesday:

Schlosser, Eric. 2002. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. New York: Harper-Collins. Chapter 7 (Cogs in the Great Machine), & Chapter 8 (The Most Dangerous Job in America)

Week 7 Manufacturing: Clothing, Autos, Semiconductors

Nov.
17-19 **2-page paper outline due by Friday!!**
Wednesday Film: The Business of America (ID# 924535)
Sector specific dynamics
Similarities and differences
Actors and technologies

Readings by Monday:

Dicken (2011) Chapter 10, pp. 301-330

Readings by Wednesday

Dicken (2011) Chapter 11, pp. 331-366

Week 8 Digital Industries: News/Journalism, Financial, Tele-mediated Services

Nov.
24-26 Structure and Dynamics
Technology changes
New business models
Labor Responses

Read by Monday:

Benner, Sommer and Jackson *Next Generation Unionism and the Future of Newspapers*

Readings by Wednesday:

Dicken (2011), chapter 12, pp. 367-398

Benner manuscript: “An Island off the West Coast of Australia: Multiplex Geography and the growth of eWork Mauritius”

Week 9 Logistics and Distribution & Higher Education

Dec. 1-3
Structure of logistics and distribution industries
Technological innovation
State strategies
Retail connections
Logistics ‘places’

Higher education funding and consumer trends
MOOCs

Readings by Monday:

Dicken (2011), chapter 13, pp. 399-425

Readings by Wednesday:

Bonacich and de Lara (2009) “Economic Crisis and the Logistics Industry: Financial Insecurity for Warehouse Workers in the Inland Empire” *ILRE WP2009-13*.

Week 10 Winning and Losing in the Global Economy

Dec. 8-10
Patterns of global opportunity and inequality
Processes of marginalization
Policies, Strategies,
Making a living in developed countries—jobs, incomes, wealth
Making a living in developing countries
Governance: Global and Local trends

Readings by Monday:

Graham and Marvin (2001) Chapter 6, p.217-303 (available in electronic form)

Dicken (2011), chapter 14-15, pp. 427-473

Readings by Wednesday:

Dicken (2011), chapter 17-19, pp. 475-560

Recommended:

Graham and Marvin (2001) ch. 8, 379-420