GEOG 582 Fall 2015 – Economic Geography
MWF 11:10-12, 204 Morrill Hall

Instructor: Tu Lan, PhD
Office: 102C Huddleston Hall
Email: tu.lan@unh.edu
Phone: (603) 862-1719
Office Hours: MW 10-11 or by appointment

Course Description
Pick out one piece of your clothing and look at the “made in” label. Most likely, it will be made in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Honduras or China, but no surprise, it won’t be Germany or the UK. What determines where a piece of clothing is to be made? Why certain commodities travel to the end market longer than others? What does it mean to the workers and consumers in that country and the workers and consumers in ours? These questions are chief concerns of economic geography. As a sub-discipline of geography, economic geography studies the locations and spatial patterns of economic activities ranging from production to consumption. In the past 200 years, these economic activities have been increasingly connected across the world, and resulted in a process called “globalization”. In this course, we will learn the geographical way of studying globalization and economic development. Compared with other disciplines, economic geographers look at globalization in a broader and to a certain extent, more material way. We are particularly interested in the economic activities that actually exist or existed, and the ways in which they impact societies and livelihoods. This way of thinking will be as important as, if not more important than, the theories and facts we are going to learn in the course.

Course Goals
- Understand the basic concepts, intellectual figures, and debates in economic geography
- Understand the concept of “economy” in its historical and geographical forms
- Become familiar with the institutions and practices that produce economic geographies that we encounter day-to-day
- Become familiar with online data resources relevant to economic geography, and incorporate maps, charts, graphs, and tables into research presentations and papers
- Apply course concepts to present-day news and policy debates about globalization, economic development, and politics
- Cultivate critical thinking, logical integrity, and presentation skills

Required Texts:

Textbooks are available at UNH bookstore.

Course Format
The semester is divided into three parts: (1) the basics in economic geography, (2) approaches to study economic geography, and (3) important actors in global economy. We will use the global apparel market
as the primary case. Being one of the oldest industries, the apparel market has changed and is still changing the landscapes and people’s lives in nearly all countries, either developed or developing.

As an upper-level course, readings are essential in our course. There will be around 50 pages for every week. Beyond the textbooks, I will post additional readings on Blackboard at least a week before the class. Moving into the semester, we will gradually give more weights to discussions. In general, I will lecture the first half of the class and leave the second half to discussions about the readings.

- **Participation**: All students are expected to actively participate in discussions. Your grade will be based on your performance, a significant part of which will in turn derive from your efforts on the weekly readings.

- **Questions**: From the second week on, individual students are required to turn in two questions before every class when there is reading assigned. Questions should be directly related to either the reading of that week or the content presented in the previous class. These should be real questions – that is, the things that are not clear to you. Every missing question will be penalized with one point.

- **News Reports**: In Parts II and III, each student will take turns to do a news report. The news must be closely related to the weekly readings. When assigned, the student will have to (1) present the news and provoke discussions in the class and (2) write an essay relating the news to the class discussion. The essay should be 3 pages long including references, 1 inch margin on all sides, font size 12, double spaced. It is due one week after the presentation date.

- **“Behind the Label” Project**: Students will be asked to choose an item of clothing and do a research based on that label. This project includes four steps, each resulting a research report, 5 pages long including references, 1 inch margin on all sides, font size 12, double spaced. First, you will trace the paths this particular item has travelled and identify the places, companies, institutions, and hopefully also logistics it has gone through. Second, using online trade data, you will study the spatial pattern of that commodity and its position in international trades. Third, you will do a research on the social and political impacts of the international trade of that particular item. Examples can be working conditions in the manufacturing country or trade conflicts between two countries. Finally, you will present your results with maps and other graphs in the end of the semester. Detailed instructions will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

  Mapping skills are very helpful in your project. That said, there is no prerequisite for this course, and we will instruct basic GIS in class.

- **Research Paper**: Upon the day of your presentation, individual students will be required to turn in a research paper combining the results you have and your own reflections based on the readings (10 pages including references, font size 12, and double spaced). The paper should include the maps and charts made by yourself.

- **Exams**: There will be two exams: one midterm and one final, both consisting of essay questions.

- **Late work**: Every 24 hours past due will be penalized by 10% of the grade of that assignment. I understand that issues come up and you all have more than one class to work on. Should you have any problem submitting your work on time, please let me know before the deadline.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Reports</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Behind the Label” Project (4)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Honor Code**
The university does not tolerate any kind of academic dishonesty. When you are working on a writing assignment, do not cut and paste from other sources. Be sure to quote and cite any words that are not your own and be sure to attribute ideas to their original source even when paraphrasing. You may fail the class by not following the rules. If you are not sure about what constitutes academic misconduct, ask the instructor or see the university’s Students Rights, Rules and Responsibilities handbook, available at [http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/](http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/)

**Syllabus Changes**
The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates, when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.

**Course Schedule**

**Part I: Basics in Economic Geography**

Aug 31: Course Overview
- No reading

Sep 2/4: Globalization and Uneven Development
- Sokol Chapter 1.

Sep 9/11: Origins of Economics and Economic Geography
- Sokol Chapter 2.

Sep 14/16/18: Market Economy and the History of Capitalism

**Part II: Approaches to Study Global Economy**

Sep 21/23: Key Approaches and Global Commodity Chains
• Sokol Chapter 3.

Sep 25: “Behind the Label” Project Step 1

Sep 28/30, Oct 2: Neoclassical
• Sokol Chapter 4

Oct 5/7/9: Marxist
• Sokol Chapter 5

Oct 12/14: Alternative
• Sokol Chapter 6

Oct 16: Midterm

Oct 19: Find trade data and measure the development
• Step 1 Due; Step 2

Oct 21/23: ArcGIS Online
• Online Tutorial

Part III: Actors in Global Economy: a Case Study of Global Apparel Market

Oct 26/28/30: Agriculture and Technology
• Rivoli Part 1.

Nov 2/4: Manufacturing and Labor
• Rivoli Part 2.

Nov 6: Step 2 Due; Step 3

Nov 9/10/13: Trade Policy and the Government
• Rivoli Part 3.

Nov 16/18/20: After Market and Culture
• Rivoli Part 4.
Nov 23: Current Issues – 1
- Rivoli Part 5.
- Sokol Chapter 7.
- **Step 3 Due; Step 4**

Nov 30, Dec 2/4: Current Issues – 2
- Sokol Chapter 8.

Dec 7/9: Presentations

Dec 11: Review Session
- **Research Paper Due**

Dec 18, 1 – 3pm: **Final**