Geography 360--ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Instructor: Stephen Healy  
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Office hours: Tuesday 2-3 and by appointment

Department Office: 233 Morrill  
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Class: TuTh 11:15-12:30  
Morrill 3, 126

Requirements: Attendance (20%), one midterm (40%), and a final exam (40%).

Policies: Class will begin promptly at 11:15. Please don't be late. Students are expected to attend class and to participate in class discussion. Lectures and written exercises will presume familiarity with the readings. No make-up exams will be given without a written excuse from Health Services or the Dean of Students.

Books: Readings for Geography 360 is available at Collective Copies, 71 S. Pleasant, Amherst and on reserve in the Tower Library.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course begins by looking at the decline of traditional industrial communities in the U.S. during the 1970s, examining the cause and consequences of plant closings and job loss. We then turn our focus to the internationalization of industry, and the role of transnational corporations and offshore production in creating a new international division of labor. Returning back home, we examine the declining real wages and increasing hours of work experienced by U.S. workers, often women employed in low wage service jobs. We also look at the role of federal, state and local governments in responding to (or contributing to) the economic changes associated with globalization.

The second and longer part of the course looks at the reality of economic change from a different perspective, focusing on a diverse range of experiences and possibilities at the local level. We broaden our conception of the economy to include household production and collective enterprises as well as new visions and models of development. In contrast to the
embracing and depressing narrative that structures the first part of the course, this second part stresses economic diversity, agency, and possibility.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS**

**JAN. 27 FEB. 1, 3 DEINDUSTRIALIZATION**

Bluestone and Harrison, "Capital vs. Community" and "The Impact of Private Disinventment on Workers and Their Communities" in Readings for Geography 360


**Video:** "The Business of America"

**FEB. 8, 10, 15 GLOBALIZATION OF PRODUCTION**

Dicken, "Transnational corporations: the primary 'movers and shapers' of the global economy" in Readings for Geography 360

Thottam, “Is Your Job Going Abroad?” in Readings for Geography 360

**Video:** "Global Assembly Line"

**FEB. 17, 22 THE SERVICE SECTOR AND THE RISING TIDE OF WORK**

Ehrenreich, "Selling in Minnesota" (to be handed out in class)

Schor, "Time Squeeze: The Extra Month of Work" in Readings for Geography 360

**Video:** "Fast Food Women"

**FEB. 24 MAR. 1, 3 GOVERNMENT RESPONSES**

Time magazine series on corporate welfare (to be handed out in class)

Surowiecki, “It Pays to Stay” in Readings for Geography 360

**Videos:** 60 Minutes excerpt on AID in Central America

TV Nation segments:

"Free Trade in Mexico"
"Appleton Prison"
"Corp-Aid"
MAR. 9, 11 RETHINKING ECONOMY
Graham, Healy, Byrne, “Constructing the Community Economy: Civic Professionalism and the Politics of Sustainable Regions” in Readings for Geography 360

Web site: www.communityeconomies.org

Slide show: “Rethinking Economy: Envisioning Alternative Regional Futures”

MID TERM DUE MARCH 11

SPRING BREAK MAR. 12-20

MAR. 22, 24 THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR: PART OF A HIDDEN ECONOMY
Waring, "A Woman's Reckoning: An Introduction to the International Economic System" and "The Boundary of Conception" in Readings for Geography 360

Duneier, “Slim and Bart” in Readings for Geography 360

Videos: "Who's Counting?" and "Another Tuesday Night"

MAR. 29, 31 COMMUNITIES UNDER SIEGE/COPING/FIGHTING BACK
Greenfield and Graham, "Workers, Communities and Industrial Properties: An Emerging Language of Rights" in Readings for Geography 360

Medoff and Sklar, "Holistic Development: Human, Economic and Environmental" in Readings for Geography 360

Video: "Holding Ground"

APR. 5, 7, 12 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: TOWARDS A COMMUNITY ECONOMY
Zukin and Kasinitz, “A Museum in the Berkshires” in Readings for Geography 360

Healy, “Promoting Neighborhood Economic Activity as a Viable Supplement to Conventional Economic Development Strategies in Holyoke, MA” in Readings for Geography 360

Presentation: “Constructing the Community Economy in the Face of Globalization”
**Video:** “Down Side Up”

**APR. 14, 19 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: COOPERATIVES**

MacLeod, Chs. 1 and 2, "Inside Mondragon" and "The Strength of Mondragon" in Readings for Geography 360

**Video:** "The Mondragon Experiment"

**APR. 21 NO CLASS (MONDAY SCHEDULE)**

**APR. 26, 28 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: COMMUNITY CONSCIOUS CAPITALISM**

“E2M: A Socially Conscious Economic Model for Millennium 2000” in Readings for Geography 360

**Guest lecturer:** Michael Garjian and E2M

**MAY 3, 5, 10 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: LATIN AMERICA**

Tavara, "Development Strategies in Latin America: Which Way Now?" in Readings for Geography 360

Pena, "Mexican Thinkwork" in Readings for Geography 360

**Video:** "Cooperatives Without Borders"

**Video:** “The Take”

**MAY 12 CHANGING RELATIONS TO WORK**

Schor, "Exiting the Squirrel Cage" in Readings for Geography 360

Jones, "Buy Less! Drive Less! Feel Great!" in Readings for Geography 360

Gandhi, "The Quest for Simplicity: My Idea of Swaraj" in Readings for Geography 360

McKibben, “Small World: Why One Town Stays Unplugged” in Readings for Geography 360

**FINAL EXAM DUE AS SCHEDULED ON DAY OF THE FINAL**