GEOGRAPHY*2230: Commodity Chains and Cultures of Consumption
Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics
University of Guelph, Fall 2018

Time/Location: 10-11:20am, Tues & Thurs/Alexander Hall, rm. 117

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Silver
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3-4:30pm

Teaching Assistant: Natalie Drope
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Office & Hours: See Courselink

Description:
This course is an introduction to the spatial structure, distribution, and social dynamics of economic activity. The course will build your expertise in four areas (the course is roughly divided according to these):

- Conceptual foundations
- Spatial patterns and processes;
- Environment and the economy; and,
- Ethics, culture, and consumption.

We will learn about key economic actors, institutions, and relationships and will examine extractive activities, manufacturing, retail, marketing and consumption. Course material, activities, and assignments will reveal interconnections between changing resource harvest technologies, business finance, commodity movement, marketing, and labour. We will use commodity chain analysis, case studies, discussion and argumentative essay writing to explore and reinforce course material.

Course Objectives:
By the end of the semester, students should be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate an understanding of definitions and concepts covered in lectures and readings;
- Apply these to examine and assess different case studies and commodity chains;
- Reflect on the roles of different actors (government, firms, individuals) in commodity chains; and,
- Construct and support evidence-based arguments regarding contemporary patterns and processes in commodity production and consumption.

Territorial Acknowledgement
Acknowledging the territory on which we learn and work honours the relationship between lands/waters and the Indigenous ancestors and stewards of them. This acknowledgement is adapted from the University of Guelph Aboriginal Resource Centre and Student Life:

“The University of Guelph rests on the traditional territory of the Attawanderon people. We therefore acknowledge the Attawanderon people and offer our respect to Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as the university and community strive to strengthen our relationships with them. We also recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land. The Dish with One Spoon Covenant is a peace agreement made between Indigenous nations before the Europeans arrived. It characterizes our collective responsibility to each other and Mother Earth - we should take only what we need, leave enough for others and keep the dish clean.”
Student Evaluation:
In-class activities (5 x 2% each): 10%
Test on conceptual foundations of the course: 15%
Commodity Chain Analysis (Assignment #1): 30%
Evidence-based Essay (Assignment #2): 20%
Final exam: 25%

Required Text:

The textbook is available for purchase via the campus bookstore and several copies are on reserve at the campus library. If you decide to buy it from another source, please be sure that you get the correct edition. All other course readings are available through our Courselink website.

Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC and/or ACTIVITY</th>
<th>READINGS and RESPONSIBILITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>First Day of Class: Introduction and course organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Conceptual foundations: Key Concepts</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Conceptual foundations: Case Study</td>
<td>Review Chapter 1 and 2</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Conceptual foundations: Uneven economic growth</td>
<td>Chapter 3 (sections 3.1 to 3.5)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Spatial patterns and processes: Commodity chains I</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>FALL STUDY BREAK -- NO CLASS</td>
<td>Complete online tutorial and quiz by 5pm to receive a bonus 1% on assignment #1.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Spatial patterns and processes: Transnational corporations</td>
<td>Chapter 10 (sections 10.1 to 10.3 and box 10.6)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Environment and Economy: Nature as commodity</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Environment and Economy: The resource ‘curse’</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Consumption: Spaces</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<td>DATE</td>
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<td>READINGS and RESPONSIBILITIES</td>
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<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Consumption: Ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 15 (sections 15.1 to 15.4 and 15.5 to 15.7)</td>
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<td>Short Q&amp;A regarding Assignment #2</td>
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<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Consumption: Cause related marketing</td>
<td>Ponte &amp; Richey (2011)</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Consumption: Can consumption make a better planet?</td>
<td>Assignment #2 due by 5pm.</td>
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<td>In-class Activity #4</td>
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<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>New directions: digital economies</td>
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<td>In-class Activity #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>New directions: the diverse economy approach</td>
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<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>In-class Activity #5</td>
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<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Final Exam Review</td>
<td>Exam will cover all course readings and material; bring questions</td>
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Additional required readings (available as PDF files on courselink):


Key requirements and details

**In-class activities:** There will be 5 classes throughout the semester (see schedule for dates) in which seminar/lab type exercises will take place; instructions and time to complete the work will be provided in-class. Students are required to attend the classes and complete the activity to the satisfaction of the instructor and/or TA by the end of the class session to receive marks. If you miss the class/activity you will receive a mark of zero unless you provide an official note explaining your absence (e.g. doctor’s note, counseling services note) or advise the professor of a justified and anticipated absence well ahead of time.

**Assignments:** Please download and read assignments #1 and #2 in their entirety. Also make yourself familiar with instructor policies (below) regarding grading, late assignments, and the student responsibility to ensure assignment files successfully upload to Courserlink. Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments as you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

**Tests and Exams:** Students must attend the test and exam. Tests and exams may only be written after the fact with a valid medical or personal note.

**Instructor Policy Statements**

**Academic Integrity.** Students are expected to undertake this course with honesty and integrity, and to understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. If you have uncertainty about how to avoid plagiarism in your writing, please refer to the Academic Calendar, the university-produced tutorial (https://academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/plagiarism) and/or see the course TA, a university librarian, or the instructor. Plagiarism and other types of misconduct will not be tolerated, and any instances will be treated seriously.

**Communication.** Please check your university email account and the 'news' section of the GEOG*2230 Courserlink page once every 1-2 business days. Any important information arising throughout the semester will be communicated by
these means and the university mandates that students must check them. The instructor and TA will do their best to respond to emails within 1-2 business days. Emails sent after 3pm on Friday will not be responded to until at least the following Monday, and questions with answers that can be found in course documents will receive short replies (e.g., “please see course syllabus”). Students must use proper punctuation and professional language when emailing the instructor or TA.

Assignment submission, grading and grade reviews, and monitoring your courselink gradebook. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they are clear on when, where, and in what format assignments are due, to track when in-class activities will occur, and in the case of assignments submitted via courselink, to double-check that the upload has worked successfully and that your uploaded files are not corrupt. When the instructor or TA encounters a corrupt or incorrect file during grading, they will contact the student and offer a chance to re-send; however, late deductions from the original due date will apply.

Course-work related deliverables will only be accepted as scheduled in the syllabus and in-class activity hand-ins will only be accepted at the end of that lecture period. For assignments, a penalty of 10% of the total assignment grade will be deducted when a student misses the deadline; an additional 10% deduction will be made every 24 hours thereafter, including Saturdays and Sundays. Students who encounter problems due to a medical or personal reason should speak to the instructor as soon as possible (ideally on or before the due date). A note may be required.

It is the student’s responsibility to check their courselink class gradebook weekly to ensure that all grades are entered and accurate. If any concerns arise with regards to assignment grades or grading, the student must immediately visit instructor office hours or request an appointment. Requests to review or revisit assignment grades must be made within 10 days after they are released in the gradebook; thereafter, it is likely that the instructor will deny requests and that the grade will stand as final.

University Policy Statements
When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement. When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration

Accessibility. The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or visit the SAS website.

Academic Misconduct. The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University’s policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.
**E-mail Communication.** As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly. E-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

**Drop Date.** The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is the 40th class day. To confirm the actual date, please see the schedule of dates in the Undergraduate Calendar. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Copies of out-of-class assignments.** Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

**Recording of Materials.** Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

**Resources.** The Undergraduate Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.