

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
FALL 2005

Geography 360—ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

- Instructor: Julie Graham
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545-5935
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- Office hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:30 and by appointment
- Department Office: 233 Morrill
545-2286/96
- Class: TuTh 11:15-12:30
Morrill 3, 126
- Requirements: Attendance (20%), one midterm (40%), and a series of exercises (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 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 industrial communities in the U.S. examining the causes 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

SEP 8, 13, 15 DEINDUSTRIALIZATION

Greider, “Scratching Their Itch” in Readings for Geography 360

Juravich, “Behind Closed Doors—How American Workers and Their Families Are Coping With Globalization and Its Consequences: The Closing of Jones Beloit in Dalton, Massachusetts” in Readings for Geography 360

Videos: “The Business of America,” “Office Space” and “Fight Club” (excerpts)

SEP 20, 22, 27 GLOBALIZATION OF PRODUCTION

Boo, “Letter from India: The Best Job in Town” in Readings for Geography 360

Edwards, “A World of Work: A Survey of Outsourcing” in Readings for Geography 360

Video: "Global Assembly Line"

SEP 29, OCT 4 THE SERVICE SECTOR AND THE RISING TIDE OF WORK

Ehrenreich, "Selling in Minnesota" in Readings for Geography 360

Video: "Fast Food Women"

OCT 6, 11 GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

Barlett and Steele, “Corporate Welfare” in Readings for Geography 360

Greider, “Wawasan 2020” in Readings for Geography 360

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

Videos: TV Nation segments: “Free Trade in Mexico,” “Appleton Prison” and “Corp-Aid”

OCT 13, 18 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”

MIDTERM handed out on Oct. 18, due Oct. 24

OCT 20, 25, 27 THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR: PART OF A HIDDEN ECONOMY

Duneier, "Slim and Bart" in Readings for Geography 360

Waring, "A Woman's Reckoning: An Introduction to the International Economic System" and "The Boundary of Conception" in Readings for Geography 360

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

NOV 1, 3 COMMUNITIES UNDER SIEGE/COPING/FIGHTING BACK

Greenfield and Graham, "Workers, Communities and Industrial Properties: An Emerging Language of Rights" in Readings for Geography 360

Greider, "How Can We Humanize Globalization?" 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

Video: "Holding Ground"

NOV 8, 10, 15 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: COOPERATIVES

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

McKibben, "The Enigma of Kerala" in Readings for Geography 360

Video: "The Mondragon Experiment"

NOV 17, 22 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

NOV 29 DEC 1, 6 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: MEXICO

Barkin, "Sustainable Regional Resource Management: A Strategy to Create New Beneficiaries from World Trade" in Readings for Geography 360

Pena, "Mexican Thinkwork" in Readings for Geography 360

Video: "Cooperatives Without Borders"

DEC 8, 13 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: SOUTH AMERICA

Dinerstein, "Que se Vayan Todos! Popular Insurrection and the *Asambleas Barriales* in Argentina" in Readings for Geography 360

Gaudin, "Occupying, Resisting, Producing: Argentine Workers Take Over Abandoned Factories" in Readings for Geography 360

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

Video: "The Take"