

## **GEOG 582 Fall 2021 – Global Trade and Local Development**

MWF 10:10-11:00 am, Morrill 204

**Instructor:** Tu Lan, PhD

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Office Hours: W 3-5 or by appointment

### **Course Description**

Examines the location, distribution, and spatial organization of economic activities across the planet. Economic geography will be approached with an emphasis on historical development, recent theoretical traditions, and current trends and patterns in economic geography research. Particular attention will be directed toward the political economy and uneven development. Beyond history and theory, students will be challenged to comprehend their place, and that of others, in the current global economy at scales from local to global. Final grades are determined from the weighted total of points earned on **1 term project** (60%), **5 lecture quizzes** (dropping the lowest grade, 20%), and **class participation** (20%).

### **In Curriculum**

The course has 4 credits and fulfills the Discovery Social Science requirement. It is an elective for Geography Major and Minor and Economics Major: Global Trade and Finance Option (B.A.).

### **Learning Objectives**

- Recall and exemplify the basic approaches to study economic geography;
- Identify key issues in global trade and local development;
- Access to and analyze the trade and development data.

### **Recommended Texts:**

Poon, Jessie, and David L. Rigby. *International Trade: The Basics*. 1 edition. London: Routledge, 2017.

Rivoli, Pietra. 2014. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade. New Preface and Epilogue with Updates on Economic Issues and Main Characters*. 2 edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Textbooks are available at UNH bookstore and Durham Book Exchange.

### **Course Format**

The course is entirely online and based on both lectures and online discussions. Be prepared to learn data analysis skills based on computer.

- **Personal Computer:** A personal computer that meets the is mandatory. If you do not have a PC but still want to take the course, we may be able to arrange a loaner PC for you. If you need a loaner, please email the instructor for detail.

### **Requirements**

The semester is divided into two parts: (1) basics approaches to and (2) important topics in global trade and local development. We will use textile and garment industry as our prime example throughout the semester, although other industries will also be mentioned.

- **Participation:** All students are expected to watch the lecture videos, attend the zoom, and actively participate in discussions. All students will also be expected to read about 30 pages and/or a film every week.
- **Weekly Questions:** To better prepare the in-class discussion, individual students are required to prepare at least *one question every week* when there is a 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 you do not know. Be prepared to raise it in class as I will randomly ask for it.
- **Quizzes:** There will be 5 quizzes in total, with the lowest grade being dropped. Each quiz is amount to 10 points. It will take no more than 15 minutes with no more than five questions, each requiring an answer of less than three sentences.
- **“Behind the Label” Project:** Students will be asked to choose a manufactured product (e.g. clothing, laptop, cellphone, car, etc.) and do a research based on that label. This project includes four steps, each resulting a research report, 4 pages long including references, 1 inch margin on all sides, font size 12, double spaced. First, you will trace the path this item has travelled and identify the places and companies that were involved. 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 item. Examples can be working conditions in the manufacturing country or trade conflicts between two countries. Finally, you will present your results with graphs in the end of the semester. Detailed instructions will be posted on MyCourses and discussed in class.

Component	Percentage
Participation and Weekly Questions	20%
Quizzes (5, dropping the lowest)	20%
“Behind the Label” Project (4)	60%
Total	100%

- **Grade Scheme:** There will be *no round-ups*. All lines are hard and non-negotiable.

A	100 – 94	A-	<94 – 90
B+	<90 – 87	B	<87 – 84
B-	<84 – 80	C+	<80 – 77
C	<77 – 74	C-	<74 – 70
D+	<70 – 67	D	<67 – 64
D-	<64 – 61	F	<61 – 0

- **Class Notes:** I will upload all the slides onto MyCourses.
- **Classroom Behavior:** To ensure a climate of learning for all, disruptive or inappropriate behavior (repeated outbursts, disrespect for the ideas of others, etc.) may result in exclusion (removal) from this class. As a reminder, cell phone/PDA, etc. use, including text messaging, is not permitted in this class by Faculty Senate rule unless by instructor permission. Laptops and

tablets are allowed to be used only for the purpose of taking notes and doing data labs. Using laptops and tablets for any other reasons will be seen as a violation of the class policy. Each time of violating the electronic devices policy will result in *1% from your final grade*.

- **Make-ups and Late Work:** There will be *no make-up* for tests unless you meet the following condition. If you expect to miss more than one test AND you participate in an approved intercollegiate team, please notify me *before the class* and you may be allowed to take a make-up. You must also have your notice signed off by your coach or a representative of your team. Any other travel needs do not qualify for make-ups. Any kind of emergency including medical ones must be reported to the college. The college will inform all your professors so that you do not need to deal with each of us individually.  
Every 24 hours past due will be penalized by 10% of the grade of that assignment. Should you have a college/university approved activity delaying your submission, please let me know at least *24 hours before* the deadline.
- **University Academic Honesty Statement:** 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/>
- **Emotional and Mental Health Distress:** Your academic success in this course is very important to me. If during the semester, you find emotional or mental health issues are affecting that success, please contact the University's Counseling Center (3rd floor Smith Hall: 603-862-2090/TTY:7-1-1) which provides counseling appointments and other mental health services. You may find more information about UNH Conseling Center at <http://www.unh.edu/counseling-center/homepage>
- **Special accommodations:** The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you have questions about the process, please contact DSS at (603) 862-2607 or [disability.office@unh.edu](mailto:disability.office@unh.edu). If you are registered with DSS, and eligible for accommodations that you would like to utilize in this course, please forward that information to me in a timely manner so that we can meet privately in my office to review those accommodations. For more information, please visit <http://www.unh.edu/disabilityservices>.

### **Syllabus Changes**

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

## Course Schedule

### Part I: Approaches

#### Week 1: Course Overview and History of Global Trade

- Poon Chapter 1.

#### Week 2: Sample research: Chinese apparel companies in Italy

- Lan, Tu. 2015. "Industrial District and the Multiplication of Labour: The Chinese Apparel Industry in Prato, Italy: The Chinese Apparel Industry in Prato, Italy." *Antipode* 47 (1): 158–78.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12104>.

#### Week 3: Key Approaches and Global Commodity Chains

- Sep 13: Quiz 1; Project Step 1 starts
- Gereffi, Gary. 1994. "The Organization of Buyer-Driven Global Commodity Chains: How U.S. Retailers Shape Overseas Production Networks." In *Commodity Chains and Global Capitalism*, edited by Gary Gereffi and Miguel Korzeniewicz, 95–122. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

#### Week 4: Industrialization and Economic Development

- Belussi, Fiorenza, and Katia Caldari. 2009. "At the Origin of the Industrial District: Alfred Marshall and the Cambridge School." *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 33 (2): 335–55.  
doi:10.1093/cje/ben041.

#### Week 5: Neoclassical and the Mainstream Economics

- Sep 27: Quiz 2
- Poon Chapter 2

#### Week 6: Marxist and Alternative Approaches

- Oct 4: Step 1 due; Step 2 starts.
- Sokol, Martin. Chapter 4. *Economic Geographies of Globalisation: A Short Introduction*. Cheltenham, U.K. ; Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Pub, 2011.

#### Week 7: Measure the Global Trade

- Oct 11: Quiz 3
- UNCTAD: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/Statistics.aspx>
- ArcGIS Online: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

### Part II: Topics

#### Week 8: Government

- Rivoli Part 1
- Poon Chapter 3

#### Week 9: Trade Governance

- Rivoli Part 2

- Poon Chapter 5

Week 10: Transnational Corporations

- Nov 1: Quiz 4; Step 2 due; Step 3 starts.
- Rivoli Part 3
- Poon Chapter 4

Week 11: Technology

- Rivoli Part 4
- Poon Chapter 6

Week 12: Society

- Nov 15: Quiz 5
- Intro to Bitcoin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1si5ZWLgy0>

Week 13: Thanksgiving, No Class

- Movie Time: <https://www.netflix.com/title/81090071>

Week 14: Presentations

Week 15, Presentations