

## GEOG 216 – GEOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD ECONOMY (Fall 2024)

### PROFESSORS

Prof. Oliver Coomes, 415 Burnside Hall  
Ph: 398-4943, Office Hours: Monday 3:30-4:30 pm  
Email: [oliver.coomes@mcgill.ca](mailto:oliver.coomes@mcgill.ca)  
Course email: [gwe216@gmail.com](mailto:gwe216@gmail.com)

Prof. Sébastien Breau, 417 Burnside Hall  
Office Hours: Monday 3:30-4:30 pm  
Email: [sebastien.breau@mcgill.ca](mailto:sebastien.breau@mcgill.ca)  
Course schedule: MWF, 8:35 to 9:25 am, Adams Auditorium

### COURSE OVERVIEW

The object of the course is to provide you with a broad understanding of the dynamics of the world economy. In particular, we seek to understand how this system affects our lives and the lives of people in other parts of the world. The course has been divided into five sections. In *Section I*, we introduce you to certain basic concepts and trends of the world economy. In *Section II*, significant processes in the emergence of a global economy are highlighted. *Section III* looks at the spatial concentration of resources used for economic activities while *Section IV* examines the spatial organization of the new world economy. Finally, *Section V* covers key contemporary topics that reflect changes in the growing economic inter-connectedness of world regions, i.e., multinational corporations, trade institutions, food supply, inequality and the COVID pandemic.

### COURSE READINGS

The required readings for this course are available on MyCourses and organized by lecture date. We recommend that you read the articles for each lecture before and after class so that you come to the lectures prepared and then connect what you have learned in class back to the readings. **Students will be evaluated on their knowledge of both the readings and lecture materials, unless otherwise advised. The readings are meant to complement the lecture material and should not be seen as a substitute. Class attendance is recommended as full lecture notes are not posted on myCourses.**

### MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

Task	Weight	Date and Location	Description
Test 1	25%	Friday, Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup> (in class)	Multiple choice, true or false and short answer questions
Test 2	25%	Wednesday, Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> (in class)	Multiple choice, true or false and short answer questions
Final Exam	50%	TBA during Exam Period (on campus)	Multiple choice, true or false and short answer questions

In accord with McGill University's [Charter of Students' Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. Note also that, in the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

### COURSE ADMINISTRATION

The Student Contact Teaching Assistant (TBA) for this course is always the first point of contact for all course-related questions regarding the readings, tests and final exam. Student correspondence to TAs and Instructors via email ([gwe216@gmail.com](mailto:gwe216@gmail.com)) should require a short answer only. Students should use office hours or make personal appointments if questions require a longer answer.

In-class tests are to be taken at the scheduled time; no make-up tests will be offered. In the case a test is missed, with valid reason (e.g., medical note), its value will be added to the next test. Requests for test reassessments must be made within 10 working days after the assessment is returned to students. For information on university and department policies for student assessment, please go to <http://www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment>.

The course outline is a contract among students, instructors and McGill University. In compliance with McGill regulations, the evaluation scheme shall be applied uniformly to all students in the class.

As the instructors of this course, we are committed to maintaining a teaching and learning space that is respectful and inclusive for all. Mutual respect is expected at all times amongst instructors, TAs, support staff and students. Additional information on student rights and responsibilities can be found [here](#).

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#).

© Instructor generated course materials (e.g., lectures, handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

<b>Section 1: Basic concepts and trends</b>		
<i>August</i>		
Wed 28	Course introduction and overview	(OC/SB)
Fri 30	Geographies of global change (Reading 1)	(OC/SB)
<i>September</i>		
Mon 2	<i>Labour Day (no class)</i>	
Wed 4	The structure and organization of economies (Reading 2)	(OC)
Fri 6	Growth and development: concepts and measures (Reading 3)	(OC)
Mon 9	Mapping the world economy (Reading 4)	(SB)
Wed 11	Recent patterns and trends: A global perspective (Reading 5)	(SB)
Fri 13	Recent patterns and trends: A Canadian perspective (Reading 6)	(SB)
Mon 16	Why countries trade (Reading 7)	(SB)
<b>Section 2: Emergence of a world economy and economic development</b>		
Wed 18	Early commercial expansion (Reading 8)	(OC)
Fri 20	The colonial world economy (Reading 9)	(OC)
Mon 23	Development theories and pathways (Reading 10)	(OC)
Wed 25	Summary and Review	(OC/SB)
Fri 27	Test 1 (25%)	(OC/SB)
<b>Section 3: Population and resources</b>		
Mon 30	Global population dynamics (Reading 11)	(OC)
<i>October</i>		
Wed 2	Population and migration (Reading 12)	(OC)
Fri 4	Natural resources and primary commodities (Reading 13)	(OC)
Mon 7	Population & resources I: food and agriculture (Reading 14)	(OC)
Wed 9	Population & resources II: oil and minerals (Reading 15)	(OC)
<b>Section 4: The spatial organization of the new world economy</b>		
Fri 11	The diffusion of the industrial revolution (Reading 16)	(SB)
Mon 14	<i>Thanksgiving / Fall break (no class)</i>	
Wed 16	<i>Fall break (no class)</i>	
Fri 18	<i>Fall break (no class)</i>	
Mon 21	The changing organization of industry: Fordism (Reading 17)	(SB)
Wed 23	The changing organization of industry: post-Fordism (Reading 17)	(SB)
Fri 25	PBS Video – ‘Commanding heights: The new rules of the game’	(SB)
Mon 28	Geography of the division of labour (Reading 18)	(SB)
Wed 30	On externalities, transactions and firm linkages (Reading 18)	(SB)
<i>November</i>		
Fri 1	Agglomeration and new industrial spaces (Reading 18)	(SB)
Mon 4	Summary and review	(OC/SB)
Wed 6	Test 2 (25%)	(OC/SB)
<b>Section 5: Special topics</b>		
Fri 8	The resource curse and Dutch disease (Reading 19)	(OC)
Mon 11	Global food systems (Reading 20)	(OC)
Wed 13	The global land rush (Reading 21)	(OC)
Fri 15	Tropical deforestation (Reading 22)	(OC)
Mon 18	Rain forest livelihoods in Amazonia: Myths and realities (no reading)	(OC)
Wed 20	Global trade institutions and agreements (Reading 23)	(SB)
Fri 22	Local-global geographies of the financial crisis (Reading 24)	(SB)
Mon 25	The economy-environment interface (Reading 25)	(SB)
Wed 27	The world of the city (Reading 26)	(SB)
Fri 29	Globalization and inequality (Reading 27)	(SB)
<i>December</i>		
Mon 2	Deglobalization? The world economy after COVID-19 (Reading 28)	(OC/SB)
Wed 4	Summary and review	(OC/SB)
TBA	Final exam (50%)	(OC/SB)