Lincoln University

Econ 10 – Economic Geography

COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2026

Instructor:	Professor Leon Kil
Lecture Schedule:	Tuesday, 3:30 PM – 6:15 PM
Credits:	3 units / 45 lecture hours
Level:	Introductory (I)
Office Hours:	Tuesday, 11:15 am – 12:25 pm LU Faculty Room **e-mail:** lkil@lincolnuca.edu
Textbook:	Hal Brands, ed. The Makers of Modern Strategy: from the Ancient World to the Digital Age (Princeton UP, 2023) (electronic version provided by the instructor)
Prerequisite:	*None*
Last Revision:	August 16, 2026

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The course includes Interrelated study of economic potential and history of various areas of the world, including United States. The course also considers the reciprocal relationship between the economic activities of man and earth surface features, population, human reproduction, consumption, distribution. Analysis of the natural and economic functions and correlation of the relationship recognized. (3 units)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- What counts as a resource? Surveying the global distribution of resources and its political and economic implications.
- Understanding the origins of the central institutions of capitalism: private property, the nation-state, competition, and international law.
- Analyzing the role of the state in fostering and strengthening industrial enterprise and R&D.
- Considering the sources and the implications of concentration and globalization of commodity production and capital flows.

- Examining the roots and consequences of international political and economic inequality for international legal regimes, their fairness and efficacy across the globe.
- Understanding the importance of political factors in shaping national reactions to international legal arrangements in corporate governance, asset protection, multilateral trade and monetary commitments, climate accords, human migration, and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Accounting for how and when business interests rally in support for free trade and economic openness versus for protectionism and economic nationalism.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES[1]

	Course LO	Program LO	Institutional LO	Assessment Activities
1	Explain location, distance, territory, place and scale	PLO 1	ILO 1a, ILO 7a	Case studies, written projects, midterm/final exam
2	Discuss Basic Economic Process and fundamentals of the Capitalist System	PLO 4	ILO 2a, ILO 6a	Case studies, written projects, midterm/final exam
3	Describe Organization of Economic Space	PLO 1	ILO 1a, 7a	Case studies, written projects, midterm/final exam
4	Explain Technological Aspects of global business	PLO5	ILO 1a	Case studies, written projects, midterm/final exam
5	Analyze the Industrial Location Theory and application	PLO 4	ILO 2a, ILO 4a	Case studies, written projects, midterm/final exam
6	Evaluate the role of gender and culture in economic life	PLO 5	ILO 2a, ILO 3a	Case studies, written projects, midterm/final exam
7	Explain the consumption process, patterns and current trends	PLO 3	ILO 2a, ILO 7a	Case studies, written projects, midterm/final exam

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Students are expected to read the assigned reading materials before each class. Case studies demonstrating specific issues of interest will comprise a part of each class session. Students will consider the case studies individually and in groups.

[1] Detailed description of learning outcomes and information about the assessment procedure are available at the Learning Outcomes Assessment section of LU website.

Each session will strike a balance between thematic lecture and teacher-student interaction in the classroom.

Assignments and projects require students to actively use resources of the library. Detailed guide to business *resources of the library* as well as the description of Lincoln University approach to *information literacy* are available at the LU Library website (lincolnuca.libguides.com).

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

Each student will be assigned an academic or analytical article or a book chapter relevant to the course subject and will be expected to present it to the class at the end of the semester. Be prepared to answer questions raised by the course instructor or the classmates! The order of presentations will be determined on a volunteer basis and then by a lottery.

TESTING

There will be one mid-term examination and one final examination. The midterm exam will be in the take-home format. The final exam – the in-class format. Both examinations are based on the assigned readings and lectures. There will be a review for both exams ahead of time.

GRADING

Grading will be based on the following criteria:

Mid-term	: 25 per cent
Final Examination	: 40 per cent
Class Attendance and Participation	: 10 per cent
Individual Presentation	: 25 per cent
Total	: 100 per cent

Grading Standard:

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Points	95-100	90-94	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	74-76	70-72	67-69	60-66	0-59

Classroom Protocol:

Courtesy is expected. This includes no cell phone usage.

COURSE CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENTS

The assigned material for each date should be read before the class. Class participation in discussing the material is expected.

Lecture 1 (August 25): Resources and Power amidst Global Economic Interdependence

- Introducing main themes of the course

Lecture 2 (September 1): Warfare, Resource Competition, and International Law

- Hendrik Spruyt, The Sovereign State and Its Competitors: an Analysis of Systems Change (Princeton UP, 1996), chapters 3 and 8.
- Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime" in Peter B. Evans et al., eds., Bringing the State Back In (Cambridge UP, 1985), pp. 169-191

Lecture 3 (September 8): Three Templates of Economic Statecraft: Mercantilism, Liberalism, Nationalism

- Lars Magnusson, The Political Economy of Mercantilism (Routledge, 2015), chapter 6.
- Gloria M. Liu, Adam Smith's America: How a Scottish Philosopher Became an Icon of American Capitalism (Princeton UP, 2024), chapter 3.
- David Levi-Faur, "Friedrich List and the Political Economy of the Nation-State," *Review of International Political Economy*, vol. 4, issue 1, 1997, pp. 154-178.

Lecture 4 (September 15): Capital Accumulation and Capital Allocation in European Industrial Growth

- Alexander Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective" in Mark Granovetter and Richard Swedberg, eds., The Sociology of Economic Life (Boulder: Westview, 1992), pp. 111-130
- Linda Weiss and John M. Hobson, "Strong and Weak States in European Industrialization" in their States and Economic Development: a Comparative Historical Analysis (London: Polity, 1996), pp. 93-129

Lecture 5 (September 22): International Economic Crises and National Reactions

- Ronald Rogowski, "Why Changing Exposure to Trade Should Affect Political Cleavages" in his Commerce and Coalitions: How Trade Affects Domestic Political Alignments (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1989), pp. 3-20.

Lecture 6 (September 29): International Economy and Capital Allocation

- John M. Hobson, The Wealth of States: a Comparative Sociology of International Economic and Political Change (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1997), chapter 6.

- Giacomo Luciani, "Allocation vs. Production States: a Theoretical Framework" in Hazem Beblawi and Giacomo Luciani, eds., The Rentier State (Routledge, 2015).

Lecture 7 (October 6): International Finance and the Theories and Practice of Imperialism

!!! - Midterm Exam Questions distributed to the students - !!!

- Rudolf Hilferding. Finance Capital: a Study of the Latest Phase of Capitalist Development (Routledge, 1981), part I.

- Vladimir Lenin, Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism, entire, accessible at: http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/

Lecture 8 (October 13): International Trade, Technology, and Resource Mobilization Between the First and the Second World War (1914-1945)

!!! - Midterm Exams Due in Class - !!!

- Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation: the Political and Economic Origins of Our Time (Boston: Beacon Press, 2001), chapters 11-18

Lecture 9 (October 20): America's Benevolent Hegemony, 'Organized Capitalism' and the Political Economy of the Cold War

- John Gerard Ruggie, "International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order" in Stephen Krasner, ed., International Regimes (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1981), pp. 195-232.

- Stephan Haggard, "Explaining Development Strategies" in his Pathways from the Periphery: the Politics of Growth in the Newly Industrializing Countries (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1990), pp. 23-48.

Lecture 10 (October 27): The Origins of Neo-Liberal Globalization in the Industrialized and the Developing World

- Dieter Helm, ed. The Economic Borders of the State (Oxford UP, 1987), chapter 1.

- Kiren Chaudhry, "The Myths of the Market and the Common History of Late Developers" in Naazneen H. Barma and Steven K. Vogel, eds., The Political Economy Reader: Markets as Institutions (London: Routledge, 2008), pp. 447-473

Lecture 11 (November 3): The Empire of Capital: Transnational Business and Its Legal Regimes

- Ronen Palan. The Offshore World: Sovereign Markets, Virtual Places, and Nomad Millionaires (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2003), chapters 1-2

- Garry Gereffi, "Global Value Chains in a post-Washington Consensus World," *Review of International Political Economy*, vol. 21, issue 1, 2014, pp. 9-37

Lecture 12 (November 10): American Hegemony Challenged and the Rise of Alternative Centers of Capital Accumulation

- Stephen S. Cohen and J. Bradford DeLong. The End of Influence: What Happens when Other Countries Have the Money (Basic Books, 2010), chapters 4 and 5

- Henry Farrell and Abraham L. Newman, "Weaponized Interdependence: How Global Economic Networks Shape State Coercion," *International Security,* vol. 44, no. 1 (Summer 2019), pp. 42–79

Lecture 13 (November 17): A New Globalization Project or a New World War?

- Maximillian Hess. Economic War: Ukraine and the Global Conflict between Russia and the West (Hurst, 2023), Part II.

- Michael Kwet, Digital Degrowth: Technology in the Age of Survival (Pluto Press, 2024), chapters 1-2

Lecture 14 (December 1): Individual Presentations

Lecture 15 (December 8): Final Examination