

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
GEOGRAPHY 3422b, 2016
(The Geography of International Business)

Dr. M.B. Green
Office: 2415 SSC
Phone: 661-2111, ext. 85025
Lectures and Labs: Tuesdays 2:30-5:30, SSC 2020
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10 to 11, and by appointment
TA: TBA

Calendar Description: An examination of the spatial behavior of large corporations and the impact on regional economics. Investment pattern, interorganizational linkages and organizational change will be discussed.

Course objectives: This course provides a student with a basic understanding of the role of transnational corporations and nation-states in international business. The ability to critically evaluate world business patterns is the major objective of the course.

Prerequisite(s): Geography 2420A/B, or Geography 2143A/B with a grade of at least 70%, or enrollment in the Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies.

Lecture and Discussion Topics*:

- Jan 5: *Questioning Globalization*, Film: **The Ascent of Money part 1, Commanding Heights, Part 1**, reading as assigned
- Jan 12: *The Changing Global Economic map* Film: **The Ascent of Money, part 2, Commanding Heights, Part 2**, reading as assigned
- Jan 19: Film: **The Ascent of Money part 3, Proficiency Quiz 1**, *The Changing Global Economic* (continued), reading as assigned
- Jan 26: *The Changing Global Economic map*, **The Ascent of Money part 4**, reading as assigned
- Feb 2: **Proficiency Quiz 2, Tangled Webs**, Film: **The Other Side of Outsourcing**, reading as assigned
- Feb 9: *Tangled Webs* (Continued), reading as assigned
- Feb 15: Reading Week
- Feb 23: *Technology Change*, Film: read **Geography is Destiny, Proficiency Quiz 3**, Film: **The Other Side of Outsourcing**, reading as assigned
- Mar 1: *Technology: (continued)* **Inside Job** part 1, reading as assigned
- Mar 8: *Transnational Corporations: The primary Movers and Shapers of the Global Economy*, **Proficiency Quiz 4, Inside Job part 2**, reading as assigned
- Mar 15: *The State Really Does Matter*, Films: **The Corporation**, reading as assigned
- Mar 22: *Capturing Value, Destroying Value*, **Proficiency Quiz 5**, reading as assigned
- Mar 29: *Winning and Losing*, Film: **Japan and Industrialization**, reading as assigned
- Apr 5: Film: **Watch The Corporation, Proficiency quiz 6**, reading as assigned

This syllabus is tentative, subject to change. Course content and order of presentation may differ from this general syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances and changes in economic conditions. Additional readings will assigned as the course progresses.

Course Requirements:

A group project to be done on a topics relevant to the course material listed in the above syllabus. The topic shall be agreed upon by the group and the course instructor. In all cases, the instructor's decision on appropriateness of a topic shall be final. In lieu of a topic selection by a group, a topic shall be assigned by the instructor. All topics must be approved by Feb 5.

Each group shall consist of 4 randomly selected class members. The presentation is to consist of a scripted Power Point presentation suitable for posting on the course website. If a group wishes to undertake a more difficult approach please consult with the instructor before starting.

Due dates will be staggered across the period Mar 1, Mar 8, Mar 15, Mar 22 and Mar 29. Due dates will be assigned to groups based on random assignment.

There is no final examination for this course.

Marking scheme:

1) Proficiency quizzes: 75% of the final mark. The top 5 of the 6 quizzes are worth 13% each of the final mark. The lowest quiz is worth 7.5%. Attendance 2.5%. **Quizzes will not be reevaluated after 2 weeks from the date the quiz was given.** Quizzes will be short answer or multiple choice. Quizzes may include material from previous lectures already tested with previous quizzes and any posted presentations.

2) Power Point script and presentation file: 25%

No travel or employment plans should be made during the midterm examination time. In accordance with university policy, **missed exams cannot be made up except on written medical grounds** and notification prior to the examination date.

If you have questions about the regulations regarding exams or other requirements visit the social science academic counseling website.

This course follows the University of Western Ontario grading guidelines, which are as follows (see http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/general/grades_undergrad.pdf):

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work that is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Accommodation for Medical Illness

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate

(SMC): http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Authorized absences from quizzes shall be made up in makeup quizzes twice during the course.

No travel or employment plans should be made during the Final Examination time. In accordance with university policy, missed exams cannot be made up except on **written medical grounds** and notification **prior** to exam date.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices may **not** be used during any portion of this course without the instructor's permission

EXTENSIONS, LATE ASSIGNMENTS, PLAGIARISM, ADDS/DROPS, APPEALS

You are advised to read the course calendar to familiarize yourself with the University's regulations and procedures concerning grades, regulations, penalties and appeals ('relief'). Extensions and penalties for late assignments are at the discretion of the course instructor.

Plagiarism is unacceptable and those who do so will be persecuted to the fullest extent allowed under the University's regulations. Please avoid this experience and do your own work.

If you decide to drop the course you must follow the procedure established by the Dean's Office and complete the appropriate forms.

Should you feel that your final grade in the course is biased, inaccurate or unfair, you do have the right to appeal your mark. Be aware that marks may be raised--**as well as lowered**--through an appeal process. Please refer to the Western Calendar 2016, prior to

doing so. It is very much in your own interest to seek assistance and adjustments as early as possible, and always in advance of the event.

Prerequisite checking:

Unless you have the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Code of conduct:

Students in geography are expected to conduct themselves in a polite and civil manner. Students are reminded of the University Code of Conduct for Students: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Problems?

If you are having problems, **SPEAK UP!** I am more than happy to help you with difficulties you are having in the course. This help is conditional upon you doing your job. That is, you should read the text and study the slides before you come to see me. The session is much more fruitful if you have tried to understand the material first. I will not review a class lecture for you if you didn't attend. Please attend the lectures, it makes everyone's life much easier. Attendance will be taken. A student more than 15 minutes late will not be counted as attending.

Review and or read any material to be covered in a class **before** class. I assume you have done this when I present material.