GEOG2128 Economic Geography

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 2nd Semester **CREDITS:** 6

COURSE TEACHER(S): Dr. Frank VAN DER WOUDEN

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 40 %	COURSEWORK 60 %
• 2 hours	• 3 quizzes

OBJECTIVES:
To introduce perspectives on economic growth, technological change and competition in a world where geography matters and help students develop a knowledge base about the interaction between geographical space and economic processes.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:
The focus of this class is economic growth, technological change and competition in a world where geography matters. The aim of the class is to understand the postwar history and geography of economic growth. As global production becomes increasingly integrated, workers and firms in different regions are forced more directly into competition with one another. How do these firms, and the regions in which they are embedded, compete for the capital and labor required to sustain competitiveness? The dominant strategies of competitive advantage hinge on technology. More specifically, technological change remains one of the primary determinants of profitability and growth. Increasingly, it is recognized that the motors of national economic performance are sub-national technology districts. These innovative regions are characterized by strong ties between firms embedded in institutional structures that reinforce common sets of rules, norms, business cultures and decision routines.

LECTURE TOPICS:
- Introduction to economic growth
- Technological change
- Institutions & Geographies of Technology
- Agglomeration Economies and Network-Structures
- Product Space & Knowledge Space
- Economic Relatedness and Complexity
- Knowledge Flows across space
- Innovation: history and future

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Acemoglu, D. 2008. Introduction to Modern Economic Growth. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Hidalgo, C., Klinger, B., Barabasi, A. and R. Hausmann 2007. The product space conditions the development of nations. Science 27: 482-487.
- Van der Wouden, F. 2019, A history of collaboration in US invention: changing patterns of co-invention, complexity and geography, Industrial and Corporate Change.

	Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to:	**Alignment with Programme** Learning Outcomes (PLOs)*						**Course Assessment Methods**
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	be aware of the principles of and changing perspectives in economic geography	✔						Quizzes & exam
2	understand the interaction between geographical space and economic processes				✔			Quizzes & exam
3	understand economic change in the context of globalization		✔					Quizzes & exam
4	differentiate various perspectives in economic geography						✔	Quizzes & exam
5	evaluate the relevance of the theories about the relationship between geographical space and economic processes	✔				✔		Quizzes & exam
6	identify and explore spatial drivers of economic activities		✔					Quizzes & exam

*Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

PLO1 **critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;**

PLO2 **demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;**

PLO3 **identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;**

PLO4 **integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;**

PLO5 **participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and**

PLO6 **effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.**