

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 50 %	COURSEWORK 50 %
• 2 hours	• Essay

OBJECTIVES:

After completing this course, students are expected to understand the overlapping themes of financial geography and their interaction in regard to: the financial sector (personal savings, corporate finance, intermediaries and financial markets), cross sectors (financial centers, networks, fintech and infrastructure), development (equity, justice and responsible investment) and perspectives (financialization, sociology, anthropology and political economy) and how their interplay in terms of place and space drives and shapes development on local, regional and global scales.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

This course introduces students to a wide range of topics covered under the recently emerged field of financial geography. It not only focuses on the spatial aspects of global finance and 21st century global capitalism, but incorporates the role of human agency, institutions and the state in how the human landscape is developed physically, economically and socially in regard to finance.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- The themes and foci of financial geography as a social science paradigm
- International financial centres:
 - History
 - Functions
 - Characteristics
 - Driving forces behind their growth
 - Case studies
 - Offshore financial centers and venture capital centers
- Financialization of everyday life:
 - Case study of the US Subprime Mortgage Crisis
- Financialization of urbanization:
 - Case study of Switzerland and the role of international financial centers
 - Case study of Mainland China
- Fintech and its geographies
- Global financial networks

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Cassis, Y. (2006). Capitals of capital: A history of international financial centres, 1780-2005. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.
- Clark, G., Feldman, M., Gertler, M., Wójcik, D., & Kaiser, A. (2018). The new Oxford handbook of economic geography (First ed.). Oxford, United Kingdom; New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Chapters 28-33.
- Theurillat, T. (2021). Urban growth, from manufacturing to consumption and financialization: the case of China's contemporary urban development, Regional Studies. DOI: 10.1080/00343404.2021.1901871

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	identify the four overlapping themes of financial geography and explain how they interact with one another	✓	✓			✓		Essay & examination
2	understand the defining characteristics of financial centres and the driving forces behind their spatial agglomeration.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Essay & examination
3	utilize historicism to account for the development of financial markets and where these activities occur	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Essay & examination
4	define and understand network theories and how they relate to global financial networks and their implications on local, regional and global economies	✓	✓				✓	Essay & examination
5	identify the different financialization processes and their social and spatial impacts	✓	✓					Essay & examination
6	understand the social and economic consequences (injustices) of contemporary financial markets and where these take place	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Essay & examination

***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.