Course Description and Objectives:
Globalization has made capital more mobile and places more connected. It has also intensified cities and regions in competing for resources, and make them more vulnerable to global problems and crisis. The recent financial crisis has had uneven impact on cities, regions and people, and inequality has been intensified in many countries in the world. Moreover, the unprecedented global urbanization has also exerted an increased pressure on sustainable development and quality of life. Cities and regions are facing many new challenges in development, livability and sustainability, human actions are needed to make them a better place to work and live.

This course focuses on economic geography and urban/regional development theories and practice, and includes economic geography perspectives, globalization, industrial location, regional development, sustainable development and public policies. Students will be introduced to major theories in economic geography, especially in terms of economic globalization, regional inequality, agglomeration, industrial districts and clusters, innovation, global cities and urbanization, which provide a framework for understanding contemporary issues and basis for evidence based public policy.

The course aims to foster a better understanding of theories in economic geography and their applications in urban, regional and sustainable development. Students will learn recent developments in economic geography theories, critically evaluate the reading materials, and write research papers or project reports. Students will improve the understanding of geographical theories and methods in globalization, institutions, space/place, and spatial development, learn to critically evaluate academic work and conduct literature review, and engage in the research process. This course will use a combination of lecture, class discussion, assignments, and student presentations. Graduate students will be held to higher standards and more work.

Course Evaluation: Your grade will be based on attendance/participation/discussion, assignments (reading reflections and summary of class discussion), a mid-term literature review or research proposal, and the final project report. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date (the following week of the assigned weekly readings) and are expected on time. Your final grade will be computed as follows: (1) Attendance/Participation/Discussion: 20%, (2) Assignments (Reading Reflection, Literature Review or Project Proposal): 40%, (3) Final Project: 40%. This class uses letter grades.

References:

Course Outline & Readings:
Week 1/August 26 Introduction to the Course

**Week 2 /Sept. 2 Perspectives on Economic Geography and Regional Development**


**Extra Readings:**


**Week 3/ Sept. 9 Institutions, States and Economic Geography**


**Extra Readings:**


**Week 4/ Sept. 16 Economic Geographies of Globalization**


**Extra Readings:**


Week 5/Sept. 23 Global Commodity Chain, Global Value Chain & Global Production Network

Extra Readings:

Week 6/Sept. 30 Globalization, Global Cities, and Regions

Extra Readings:

Week 7/October 7 Regional Growth and Development/Final Project Proposal Presentation
Extra Readings:

Week 8/October 14  Fall Break – No Class

Week 9/October 21  Regional Inequality, Convergence and Divergence
Mid-term Assignment Due: Literature Review and Research Proposal

Extra Readings:

Week 10/October 28  Industrial Districts, Clusters and Competitiveness

Extra Readings:
Week 11/November 4  Industry, Innovation and Technology

**Extra Readings:**

Week 12/November 11  Urban Growth and Development

**Extra Readings:**

Week 13/November 18  Human Capital, Creative Class and Creative City

**Extra Readings:**

**Week 14/November 25 Economic Geography, Sustainability and Governance**


**Extra Readings:**

**Week 15/December 2 Presentation II**

**December 8**  
Class End, Thursday

**December 12-16**  
Final Exam Period

**Final Project Due**  
December 16, 12pm

Class Expectations: Students are expected to be in class on time and prepare for class in advance. Students should adhere to the University of Utah’s Student Code of conduct.

Academic Policies: All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. Please also consult the University of Utah’s Accommodations Policy.

ADA Accommodations: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.