SGO 2200

Course content

This course studies economic globalisation and technological change and these processes are examined in relation to development in specific economic sectors. The book "Global Shift" by Peter Dicken is the main text used in this course. It starts with a discussion of recent global economic changes where we have witnessed a strong growth in economies that used to be termed developing countries, such as China and Brazil. The second part is more theoretical, discussing the role of multinational companies, their histories, the reasons for these companies' spatial mobility and, more generally, issues of localization. Technological development and specifically distance-reducing technologies are explored with particular focus on multinational companies and economic globalization. The role of the state in regulating and facilitating economic globalization will be discussed.

The second part of this course relates to changes in specific economic sectors such as transportation and logistics, natural resource based industries, the automobile industry and financial services. These sectors will be exemplified by looking more closely at certain important industries in Norway and Europe. Critical questions concerning who are the winners and losers in the ongoing global shifts are reflected upon together with environmental problems related to economic globalization.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge

- The goal of the course is to provide students with an understanding of some of the major changes going on in the world economy and the key actors making these changes happen.

Skills

- To be able to analyze the role of technological change global and regional economic change
- To be able to analyze the role of transnational corporations in global and regional economic change
- To reflect upon the positive and negative consequences of economic globalization

Competences

- To be able to distinguish between normative accounts of economic globalization and real changes that affect people's lives.