

# HGO4605 - Transformations in the global economy: value chains and production networks

## Course description

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## Course content

The global balance of economic power is shifting towards the East and the South, and economic globalization is said to be entering a new phase. What does this mean? How do we, as human geographers, identify such processes, and how can we help to analyze and explain them? This course is based on the global chains and networks perspective, comprising of the global value chains (GVC) approach and the global production networks approach (GPN). We study how analytical frameworks constructed around chains and networks can be used to explain the changes. These approaches build on grand theories on the transformation of economic systems. They also require the development of middle-range theories in order to facilitate explanations in specific analyses. During the course, we will demonstrate and discuss how this can be achieved. The theoretical scope of the course is wide-ranging and forms a basis for human geography research in several different contexts.

## Learning outcome

Knowledge

You will be able to:

- account for the underlying changes supporting the claim that the global balance of economic power is shifting towards the East and the South
- discuss what separates and unites the value-chains approach and the production-networks approach in analyses of global and regional changes
- identify strengths and weaknesses of such perspectives as analytical frameworks

## Skills

You will have the ability to utilize value chains and production networks approaches in concrete analyses. This means that you will be able to:

- identify what approaches should be applied in the case of specific issues
- identify the need to make use of middle-range theory in the case of specific issues
- suggest what middle-range theories may be beneficial to draw on and illustrate how they can be used

## General knowledge

You will acquire:

- practical experience in using and developing theory

## Admission

Students who are admitted to study programmes at UiO must each semester register which courses and exams they wish to sign up for [in Studentweb](#).

If you are not already enrolled as a student at UiO, please see our information about [admission requirements and procedures](#).

Admission to the course is dependent on admission to the master's degree programme in human geography.

Students with admission to other relevant master's degree programmes can apply for admission as [guest students](#).

## Overlapping courses

10 credits overlap with [SGO4605 - Transformations in the global economy: value chains and production networks \(continued\)](#)

## Teaching

Teaching will be in the form of seminars and will consist of ~~nine~~ **nine** ~~nine~~ nine ordinary ~~seminar meetings and a final seminar~~. ~~A~~ Seminar meetings will take place once a week. ~~The ordinary meetings~~ will last for three hours and consist of a combination of a ~~short~~ lecture, group work, presentations and discussions. ~~The~~ The final seminar will ~~also last for three hours, and will~~ include a summing-up of the course and exam preparation based on students' requests and questions.

### Compulsory instruction and coursework

Attendance at ~~eight~~ seven out of a total of ~~nine~~ nine ~~eight~~ ten seminars is compulsory.

Students must be well prepared for every meeting. For each ordinary meeting a minimum of 50 pages of reading will be set, which students should read prior to the meetings.

### Absence from compulsory tuition activities

If you are ill or have another valid reason for being absent from compulsory tuition activities, your absence may be approved or the compulsory activity may be postponed.

- [Report absence from or the need for a postponed deadline on a compulsory tuition activity](#)

### Access to teaching

A student who has completed compulsory instruction and coursework and has had these approved, is not entitled to repeat that instruction and coursework. A student who has been admitted to a course, but who has not completed compulsory instruction and coursework or had these approved, is entitled to repeat that instruction and coursework, depending on available capacity.

## Examination

~~An ten-eight days 6-hour school exam take-home exam. The examination text will be formulated by the teacher. It will be handed out at 10 am on the day of examination and the paper has to be submitted before 2 pm ten-eight days later. The maximum length of the paper, excepting references, is 6000 words. In your analyses, you are encouraged to use empirical examples. The examples could be from the syllabus, other academic sources or cases that have attained media attention.~~

### ~~Examination support material~~

~~Students may use dictionaries at this exam. Dictionaries must be handed in before the examination. Please read regulations for dictionaries permitted at the examination~~

~~**NB! Include standard text about referencing.**~~

### Language of examination

The examination text is given in English. You may submit your response in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

### Grading scale

Grades are awarded on a scale from A to F, where A is the best grade and F is a fail. Read more about [the grading system](#).

### Explanations and appeals

It is recommended to request an explanation of your grade before you decide to appeal.

#### Appeal

- [Appeal against grades](#)
- [Complaint about formal exam errors](#)

#### Explanation

The deadline to request an explanation is one week after the grade is published. For oral and practical examinations, the deadline is immediately after you have received your grade.

The explanation should normally be given within two weeks after you have asked for it. The examiner decides whether the explanation is to be given in writing or verbally.

Ask for explanation of your grade in this course:

[Take-home exam](#)

• ~~[school exam](#)~~

## Resit an examination

If you are sick or have another valid reason for not attending the regular exam, we offer a [postponed exam](#) later in the same semester.

See also our information about [resitting an exam](#).

## Withdrawal from an examination

It is possible to take the exam up to 3 times. If you [withdraw from the exam](#) after the deadline or during the exam, this will be counted as an examination attempt.

## Special examination arrangements

Application form, deadline and requirements for [special examination arrangements](#).

## Evaluation

The course is subject to continuous evaluation. At regular intervals we also ask students to participate in a more comprehensive evaluation.