

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.
- 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.

This course studies how economic globalisation and technological change interact in shaping development at the level of regions and countries. The book "Global Shift" by Peter Dicken is the main text used. The first part of the course defines economic globalisation as growing functional interdependencies between countries and regions in the world economy. It proceeds to maps contemporary trends, including the entry of countries such as China and India as major players. The second part is more theoretical, discussing specifically the role of multinational companies and more generally the question of industry localization in light of modern space-shrinking transportation and communication technologies. The role of the state in regulating and facilitating economic globalization will be thoroughly discussed. Critical questions concerning who are the winners and losers in ongoing global shifts are reflected upon, with emphasis on how the policies, industrial structures and institutional conditions of regions and countries determine whether they benefit or not. Finally, economic globalisation will be discussed in the context of social and environmental sustainability challenges.

Learning outcome

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.

Admission

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

Admission to this course is done on the basis of specific rules. For further information, please read: [Rangeringsregler ved SV-fakultetet](#).

Prerequisites

Recommended previous knowledge

[SGO1001 – Innføring i Samfunnsgeografi](#)

Teaching

The teaching is organized as lectures and seminars, which will be given in English. The course is part of the regular course provision at The Faculty of Social Science.

[Application for change of seminar group](#)

Teaching is mainly held during daytime. Teaching is organised as a combination of lectures and seminars throughout the semester. On the semester page you can find information about time and place of the current semesters lectures and seminars.

It is compulsory for students to write and present one essay and one response paper in the seminars. The essay is to be submitted at the end of the seminar series and must be approved before the final exam. The length of the essay is 6-8 pages (excluding references) using 12 point letter size and a spacing of lines 1

½. Information on compulsory presentations will be given in the first seminar.

Completed and approved compulsory course work is valid until the course is no longer offered. Students who have failed to complete the compulsory course work cannot take the exam.

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

A 6-hour school exam.

[Previous exams](#)

[Guidelines for writing a school exam \(English\)](#)

[Guidelines for writing a school exam \(Norwegian\)](#)

Digital examination

The written examination is conducted in the digital examination system Inspira. You will need to familiarize yourself with the digital examination arrangements in Inspira.

[Read more about written examinations using Inspira.](#)

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](#).

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:

- [School exam](#)
- [Postponed 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.