

THE CITY COLLEGE - BARUCH SCHOOL
Department of Economics

Economic Geography
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The problem is to explain the distribution of human beings and their activities over the surface of the Earth; why a great city exists here, while that area is sparsely settled and this deserted; why this area specializes in farming, that in manufacturing, while a third is residential; why traffic is heavy along certain routes while others are deserted; why some areas advance, others stagnate, and still others are abandoned.

While the theory of location, which sets out to answer these questions, is still in a rudimentary state, it is nonetheless of considerable interest in itself, and as a guide to public policy.

The leading concept of the course will be that of the world as a system of regions and activities, linked in space, and evolving together in time. Topics to be covered include transportation, communication and trade; extractive industries; agriculture; manufacturing; construction; services and government; population distribution; settlement patterns; cities - location, function and internal structure; in short, the whole gamut of economic life. The stress will be on explanatory principles rather than description.

Term Paper

A short term paper is required of each student. This will be an application of the principles developed in the course to a concrete problem. The latter may be any problem of interest to you to which location theory may be intelligently applied. Grades will be based on the skill with which the theory is used as an analytic tool. Some suggested topics follow:

- Reasons for the development (or decline) of activity X in place Y.
- Impact of program X (e.g. St. Lawrence seaway, TVA, Aswan dam, highway building, urban renewal) on place Y or industry Z.
- Impact of technological development X (e.g. atomic energy, de-salting of sea water, automation, airplane) on place Y or industry Z.
- Trends in suburbanization, small town industries, water supply or use in place X.
- Urban problems, such as traffic congestion, pollution, waste disposal, slums.

It is suggested that a detailed outline be submitted for approval in about 3 weeks.

Literature

The textbook is: E. M. Hoover, The Location of Economic Activity. The American Economic Association and the American Geographical Society publish bibliographies of current work in their respective fields.

Some useful periodicals: Annals of the Association of American Geographers; Economic Geography; Geografiske Annaler; Geographical Review; Journal of the American Institute of Planners; Journal of Regional Science; Land Economics; Proceedings of the Institute of British Geographers; Rural Sociology.

Good atlases: Goode's World Atlas; Oxford Economic Atlas of the World.

Statistical Sources

- UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs
List of Statistical Series Collected by International Organizations
 (Statistical Papers Series M #1 revision 1)
Statistical Yearbook of the United Nations
Demographic Yearbook
 FAO Yearbook of Food and Agriculture
 UN regional commission reports (ECE, ECLA, ECAFE);
 Stateman's Yearbook (especially for British commonwealth); Yearbooks of
 the various countries, such as the Statistical Abstract of the United States;
 WS and ES Woytinsky World Population and Production;
 " " " World Commerce and Government;
 For the United States a huge array of materials exists, much of which may
 be found from the Statistical Abstract;
 See also Historical Statistics of the United States and Appendix A in
 Spurr, Kellogg and Smith Business and Economic Statistics.

Books

- I. Bowman (ed) Limits of Land Settlement
 H. Brown (et al) The Next 100 years
 V.G. Childe Man Makes Himself (evolution of material culture)
 S. Daggett Principles of Inland Transportation (United States)
 R.E. Dickinson City, Region and Regionalism
 F.E. Dohrs, I.M. Sommers, D.R. Petterson Outside Readings in Geography
 A.M. Faden Notes on a Theory of Population Distribution
 (location theory, cities)
 V.C. Finch, G.T. Trenertha, (et al) Elements of Geography
 (physical geography)
 C.D. Forde Habitat, Economy and Society (Tribal Adaptation; Agricultural
 Evolution)
 C. Goodrich (ed) Migration and Economic Opportunity (mostly U.S.)
 E.M. Hoover Location Theory and the Shoe and Leather Industries
 H. Hoyt The Structure and Growth of Residential Neighborhoods in
American Cities
 R.M. Hurd Principles of City Land Values
 E. Huntington Mainsprings of Civilization (speculative but fascinating
 theory of geographical determinism)
 E. Huntington Principles of Human Geography
 E. Huntington F.E. Williams (et al) Economic and Social Geography
 P.E. James, C.F. Jones (eds), American Geography
 W. Isard (et al) Methods of Regional Analysis (advanced)
 F. Kindleberger International Trade
 J.V. Krutilla, O. Eckstein, Multiple-Purpose River Development
 W. Ley Engineers' Dreams (proposed major faceliftings of the Earth)
 R. Linton (ed) Most of the World (survey of the underdeveloped regions)
 G. Logie Industry in Towns (suitability for urban location)
 A. Lusch The Economics of Location
 H.H. McCarty The Geographic Basis of American Economic Life

- H.M. Mayer, C. F. Kohn (eds) Readings in Urban Geography
B. G. Ohlin Interregional and International Trade
E. C. Semple, C. F. Jones American History and Its Geographic Conditions
J. R. Smith, M. O. Phillips, T. R. Smith: Industrial and Commercial Geography
(trade and transport)
T. L. Smith, C. A. McMahan (eds) The Sociology of Urban Life (Migration)
J. J. Spengler, O. D. Duncan (eds) Demographic Analysis (evolution of population; migration)
W. L. Thomas (ed) Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth (past, present and future)
G. P. Thomson The Foreseeable Future
E. L. Ullman American Commodity Flow
United Nations, Dept. of Economic Affairs: Proceedings of the UN Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources
United States Dept. of Agriculture: Yearbook of Agriculture (different years devoted to different topics - including climate, soils, water, public lands, trees, grass, farm mechanization, marketing, diseases, insects)
US National Research Council-National Science Foundation (transportation conference)
US National Resources Planning Board: Industrial Location and National Resources
A. F. Weber The Growth of Cities in the Nineteenth Century
J. R. Whittaker, E. A. Ackerman American Resources
E. W. Zimmerman World Resources and Industries