lecon2314
2021

Economic Geography

5.00 credits	30.0 h	Q2

Teacher(s)	Gomes Joseph ;
Language :	English
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	Basic notions of microeconomics and econometrics taught at the Bachelor level.
Main themes	The course will be built around three distinct parts, the first one focused on economic geography, the second one on urban economics and the third one on regional policies. Theoretical and empirical approaches will be continuously alternated. Specific topics, such as, for example, the spatial consequences of the European integration or NAFTA, spatial wage disparities in China, competitiveness clusters policies in Belgium and in France or EU structural funds will be treated.
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** The aim of this course is to provide students with theoretical and empirical tools necessary to understand why the location of economic activities is uneven across space within countries. At the end of the term, the students should be able to discuss the existence, the causes and the consequences of regional inequalities. 1 The primary goal of this course is not to focus on the technical aspects of the models or of the econometric techniques of the papers that will be presented. The students are rather expected to understand the concepts and the mechanisms behind, so as to integrate them in argumentative discussions about issues related to economic integration and local development.
Evaluation methods	There will be a written exam in June which will count for 50% of the final marks and a GIS-based project that students will be required to submit after the practical GIS-based part of the course is completed (either individually or in small groups depending on class size). This will constitute the remaining 50% of the grade. For the project, the professor will make suggestions on topics. Students will be allowed to do the written exam a second time in August which will then count for 100% of the final marks.
Teaching methods	The first part of the course will take the form of lectures that will cover theoretical and empirical aspects of the course. This part of the course will be based on lectures and the professor will subsequently share all the lecture notes and slides with the students. The second part of the course will take the form of computer-based lab sessions, where students will be guided through GIS methods by the professor. The Professor will make available all the data for this part of the course before the lab-sessions start. Lecture notes for this part will also be made available to the students.
Content	The course will be divided into two parts. The first part will focus on theoretical and empirical analysis of economic geography topics. Examples of topics covered in this section include: Analysing regional and spatial inequalities, assesing the role of economic geography and historical accidents in explaining these inequalities, among others. The second part of the course will give a hands-on training to students on using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to manipulate spatial data.
Bibliography	Bibliographie: • First part of the course: Economic geography, P.P. Combes, T. Mayer and J. Thisse, Princeton University Press. • Second part: Lecture Notes prepared by the Professor.
Other infos	A good background in microeconomics, mathematics, and econometrics will be helpful for following the course.
Faculty or entity in charge	ECON

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [120] in Geography : General	GEOG2M	5		🔍
Master [60] in Economics : General	ECON2M1	5		🔍
Master [120] in Geography : Climatology	CLIM2M	5		🔍
Master [120] in Economics: General	ECON2M	5		🔍
Master [120] in Agriculture and Bio-industries	SAIV2M	5		🔍