

IWB III – International Trade

Economic Geography – The Integration of Regions and Nations

What are the sources of geographic concentration and of regional disparities? What is the role of economic integration on these sources and then on regional disparities? Is there a trade-off between economic efficiency and spatial disparities? Must regional policies be implemented to counter, or on the contrary reinforce, spatial concentration? In the course on economic geography, we will discuss these questions and study the phenomenon of economic agglomeration. We will present the theoretical models of international trade and geographical economics that analyze the mechanisms that explain regional inequalities. The course is based on the textbook *Economic Geography - The Integration of Regions and Nations* by Pierre-Philippe Combes, Thierry Mayer and Jacques-Francois¹.

Outline

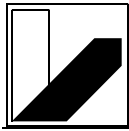
1. Facts and Theories
2. Space, Trade, and Agglomeration
3. Breadth and Determinants of Spatial Concentration

The course will cover specific parts of the textbook, depending on the size of the class.

Grading:

- a. Presentation of one chapter in the course, either by oneself or in a small group of students (depending on the course size). For each chapter students have about 60 minutes to present the main ideas of each chapter, including discussion and questions. (~ 50%)
- b. Discussion (15-30 minutes) of one of the other topics (20% of the final grade). (~ 20%)
- c. A brief test (about 10 minutes) after each chapter / meeting. (~ 20%)
- d. Active participation in the course. (~10%)

¹ The book can be borrowed at the chair of economics II during the regular office hours.



Organization:

There will be an introductory lecture in the first week of the semester: **Thursday, April 12, 2018 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. room S 61**. In this introductory lecture, I will assign a chapter to each student. Thus, attendance at this date is **compulsive**, if students want to successfully participate in this course. If you are not able to attend the introductory lecture, you have to send a mail to michael.koch@uni-bayreuth.de.

The regular course will start in May and will take place on Thursday in room **S 61** from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the following dates: May 3, May 17, May 24, June 7, June 14, and June 28. Each Thursday we will discuss two to four chapters from the textbook.

Please send all course-related questions to michael.koch@uni-bayreuth.de
Noteworthy: The language of the course is English.