

COURSE TEACHER(S): Dr. Patrick ADLER

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 40 %	COURSEWORK 60 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours examination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Discussion Questions • Term paper proposal • Term paper

OBJECTIVES:

This course introduces students to regional economic development policy, which it defines as the practice of promoting economic growth and equity in the regional economy. It adopts an agnostic and skeptical approach to questions of policy, recognizing that policymaking can both resolve and exacerbate urban problems. It conceives of the regional economy as a local labor market and policy as any (public, NGO, community-based, industry-based) effort to change the level or distribution of economic activity. It considers cases from multiple continents and systems of government. It seeks to demonstrate the scope for regional policy in complex modern economies.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

Global economic geography can be understood as a stable social structure and a target of reform and reinvention. This course chronicles approaches to changing the regional economy through policy. The first part of the course establishes the context in which regional policy takes place. The region is described as the spatial extent of a local division of labor the combines capital and labor into traded goods and services. Regional policy seeks to change the amount and type of these inputs in a region subject to mobility constraints. The remainder of the course cycles through economic development case studies from North America, Europe and Asia. Students will propose and write their own economic development case studies.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- What Is the Regional Economy?
- The Relationship Between Urban and National Policymaking
- Regional Policy with and without Mobility Constraints
- The Political Economy of Organizations
- Incentives and Inducements
- Can You Create Another Silicon Valley?
- Talent Attraction and Retention
- Megaprojects, Events and Airports
- ‘Smart Specialization’ Policy
- University Policy and Economic Development
- Shrinking Cities
- Urban Policy in the Post-Pandemic Age

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Bartik, T. J. (1991). Who benefits from state and local economic development policies
- Morgan, K. (2015). Smart specialisation: Opportunities and challenges for regional innovation policy
- Zimbalist, A. (2020). Circus maximus: The economic gamble behind hosting the Olympics and the World Cup. Brookings Institution Press.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to:		Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs) [®]						Course Assessment Methods
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	learn what is meant by “economic base”, “employment multiplier” and “real income”	✓						Weekly Discussion Questions & Exam
2	appreciate the constraints that factor mobility place on economic development policy		✓					Weekly Discussion Questions & Exam
3	identify what an “efficiency/equity” tradeoff is and how common it is in economic policymaking	✓						Weekly Discussion Questions, Term paper proposal & Term paper
4	critically appraise statements from economic development officials		✓					Weekly Discussion Questions, Term paper proposal & Term paper
5	compile basic statistics about the regional economy	✓					✓	Weekly Discussion Questions, Term paper proposal & Term paper
6	conduct case study research on a local economic development issue				✓		✓	Weekly Discussion Questions, Term paper proposal & Term paper

***Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

PLO1 critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;

PLO2 demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;

PLO3 identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;

PLO4 integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;

PLO5 participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and

PLO6 effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.