Urban and Regional Economic Geography
Economics 4999-06, Fall 2006
Syllabus

MWF 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM ECON 205

Instructors:

James Markusen      Randall Walsh
Economics 210      Economics 105
Office hours: MW 9:30-11 Office hours: MW 10-11:30
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Course Overview:
The study of economic geography addresses issues related to the role of space in economic activity. In this
class we will focus on the spatial aspects of both urban economies and regional economics. The general goals
of the course are: learn the models and techniques that are used in urban and regional economic analysis, learn
how those models are applied to particular topics and issues, learn about data sources, and practice writing as an
economist. This is an upper level undergraduate course that demands a lot of work (reading, research and
writing), but with work comes satisfaction!

The course is designed to meet student’s “critical thinking” graduation requirement. As a result, enrollment is
capped at 25 students and the structure of the course will differ from the lecture/homework/test format that is
typical of most classes at CU. The class will focus on student participation and student presentations. In
addition to two mid-term exams, grades will be based on the quality of student presentations, one research paper
and participation in the discussions of the material that is presented. Students will be expected to be
comfortable with the material from both intro and intermediate micro. An exposure to regression analysis will
be useful for understanding the material and implementing the research paper requirement. Students who are
unsure about their preparation for the course should speak with Markusen or Walsh after the first class.

The course will be comprised of four distinct components:

I) Lectures on Urban Economic Geography – Walsh
II) Lectures on Regional Economic Geography – Markusen
III) Class Lectures on Specific Topics Related to Economic Geography – Students
IV) Research Presentations – Students

Grading:

Participation, Attendance & Discussion Items 30%
Mid-term Exams 20%
Class Lecture 20%
Research Paper & Presentation 30%
-paper (20%)
-presentation (10%)
Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 4th</td>
<td>Labor Day – No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 11th</td>
<td>Markusen and Walsh Travelling – No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18th</td>
<td>Mid Term # 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22nd</td>
<td>Student Lecture Topics Assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2, 4 &amp; 6</td>
<td>No Formal Class Held – One on One meetings on Student Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9th</td>
<td>Mid Term # 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 16th-November 3rd</td>
<td>Student Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6, 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td>No Formal Class Held – One on One meetings on Research Paper</td>
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<td>November 10th</td>
<td>Paper Topic MUST be chosen</td>
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<td>November 20, 22, 24</td>
<td>Fall Break – No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27th – December 15th</td>
<td>Research Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 18th (5:00 pm)</td>
<td>Final Research Paper Due (Hard Copy – Not by Email)</td>
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Participation & Attendance:
Your active participation is a public good. For the class to succeed, student participation must be of both high volume and high quality. To help prevent a market failure leading to the under provision of this public good, the importance of participation is reflected by its being a significant portion of each student's grade. Regarding attendance, students can miss one student lecture/paper presentation without penalty. Beyond this point, each missed class will reduce your participation and attendance grade by 2 points (out of a total possible of 30).

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is an academic offense and any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be sanctioned. If you are unsure or uncertain about what constitutes either cheating or plagiarism, please consult me or the University of Colorado Catalog 2004-2005.

Students with documented disabilities:
Students with documented disabilities: who may need academic accommodations should speak with Markusen or Walsh during the first two weeks of the class (no later than February 3). Please, see also the Coordinator of Services to students with disabilities in the Disability Services Office, Willard 322 (phone 303-492-8671), so that such accommodations may be arranged.