

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

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

Instructors:

James Markusen
Economics 210
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Economics 105
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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:

September 4 th	Labor Day – No Class
September 11 th	Markusen and Walsh Travelling – No Class
September 18 th	Mid Term # 1
September 22 nd	Student Lecture Topics Assigned
October 2, 4 & 6	No Formal Class Held – One on One meetings on Student Lectures
October 9 th	Mid Term # 2
October 16 th -November 3 rd	Student Lectures
November 6, 8 & 10	No Formal Class Held – One on One meetings on Research Paper
November 10 th	Paper Topic MUST be chosen
November 20, 22, 24	Fall Break – No Class
November 27 th – December 15 th	Research Presentations
December 18 th (5:00 pm)	Final Research Paper Due (Hard Copy – Not by Email)

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 students 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.