

University of Texas at Austin  
Community and Regional Planning

COURSE NO.: CRP 385C  
UNIQUE NO.: 01435

**COURSE TITLE: Sustainable Urban Economic Development**

**SEMESTER: Spring 2012**  
**TIME: Thurs. 6:30-9:30 P.M.**  
**OFFICE: N/A**

**INSTRUCTOR: Brian Kelsey**  
**ROOM NO. Sutton 2.102**  
**OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment**

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**CONTENT:** This course provides a survey of major theories of economic development and how they are put into practice by federal, state and local governments in the U.S. A special emphasis of this course will be on defining a sustainable path to economic development. Policies and initiatives will be evaluated through a sustainable development framework in urban and rural contexts – how might they influence economic growth, economic equity, wage and income distributions, and the environment.

Class discussions will be equal parts theory and practice, drawing heavily on current events and recent programs launched at the federal and local levels. The course will briefly review theories concerning the causes of growth and decline of cities and regions and then define and delineate specific dimensions of sustainable development. In addition, students will get hands-on experience with practical techniques for evaluating the structure and economic and environmental performance of regional economies and labor markets. Assignments will be focused on an investigation of public intervention strategies, with special emphasis on strategic planning and development of “green” industries and jobs.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

1. Joan Fitzgerald and Nancy Green Leigh, *Economic Revitalization: Cases and Strategies for Cities and Suburb*, Thousand Oaks, CA. Sage Publications, 2002. (Paperback) ISBN 9780761916567
2. Van Jones, *The Green Collar Economy: How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems*, New York: HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN 9780061650765
3. Course reader selections on Blackboard or online

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Students are expected to do all of the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. Students will be evaluated on the basis of three assignments and the quality of their class participation over the semester:

1. Regional assessment (presentation, cover memo, report 10 pgs) - 30% of final grade
2. Professional proposal (presentation, cover memo, proposal 10 pgs) - 30% of final grade
3. A final take-home exam (10-12 typed pages) - 25% of final grade
4. Class participation- 15% of final grade

Individual assignments and the final course grade will follow the scale outlined below:

Points	Grade Equivalent
100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-84	B
83-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-74	C
73-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-64	D
63-60	D-
59 or below	F

**COURSE OUTLINE:** Topics covered are listed below in the order that they will appear. Some amendments to individual topics and associated readings may be made based on the specific background and interests of the students.

**January 19, 26      **Intro to Economic Development: Actors and Rationale****

Bartik, Timothy, "The Market Failure Approach to Regional Economic Development Policy," *Economic Development Quarterly*, Vol2, No.4, November 1990, pp. 361-370.

Campbell, Scott, "Green Cities, Growing Cities, Just Cities: Urban Planning and the Contradictions of Sustainable Development," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Summer 1996, pp. 296-313.

Eisinger, Peter, *The Rise of the Entrepreneurial State*, Madison WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1988, pp. 34-54.

Fitzgerald, Joan and Nancy Green Leigh, *Economic Revitalization: Cases and Strategies for Cities and Suburb*, Thousand Oaks, CA. Sage Publications, 2002. pp. 9-38.

Public and Private Benefit Model Handout

**February 2      **Explaining the Location of Economic Activity****

Blair, John, *Local Economic Development: Analysis and Practice*, Sage Publications, 1995, pp. 41-94.

Cortright, Joseph, "Making Sense of Clusters: Regional Competitiveness and Economic Development, A Discussion Paper Prepared for The Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, March 2006.

Glaeser, Edward, "Demand for Density," *Brookings Review*, Summer, 2000, Vol. 18, i.3, pp. 12-25.

Ketels, Christian, "Cluster Policy: A Guide to the State of Debate," Forthcoming in: *Knowledge and Economy*, Spring Publishing, 2011. optional

Kitson et al, "Regional Competitiveness and Elusive Yet Key Concept," *Regional Studies* Vol. 38.9, 2004, pp. 991-999.

Nelson, Arthur, "Theories of Regional Development," in Bingham et al. (eds.), *Theories of Local Economic Development*, Newbury Park CA.: Sage, 1993, pp. 27-57. optional

Plummer, Lawrence, "New Business Clustering in U.S. Counties, 1990-2006," U.S. Small Business Administration, May 2010. optional

Segedy, James, "How Important Is Quality of Life in Location Decisions and Local Economic Development," in Bingham et al. (eds.) *Theories of Local Economic Development*, Newbury Park, CA: 1993.

Wadhwa, Vivek, "Industry clusters: The modern-day snake oil," *The Washington Post*, July 14, 2011.

### **Regional Assessment and Professional Proposal Assignments Passed Out – February 2**

#### **February 9            Growth, Change, and Sustainability in Regional Economies**

Blakely, Edward and Ted Bradshaw. *Planning Local Economic Development: Theory and Practice*, Thousand Oaks, CA, 2002. pp. 103-153.

Glaeser et al, "Cities, Skills, and Regional Change," March 31, 2011. optional

Maclaren, Virginia, "Urban Sustainability Reporting," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Vol. 62, No 2 1996, pp. 184-201.

Markusen, Ann and Greg Schrock, "Consumption-Driven Urban Development, Project on Regional and Industrial Economics, forthcoming in *Urban Geography*, 2009.

Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project 2009 Data Report

#### **February 16            Data Analysis: Tools, Techniques, and Effective Communication**

In-class demonstration of data sources and practice runs

#### **Feb 23, March 1        State and Local Industry Development Strategies and Tools**

Anderson et al, "Creating Quality Jobs: Transforming the Economic Development

Landscape,” International Economic Development Council, March 2010. pp. 1-27.

Fitzgerald, Joan and Nancy Green Leigh, *Economic Revitalization: Cases and Strategies for Cities and Suburb*, Thousand Oaks, CA. Sage Publications, 2002. pp. 69-101.

Jones, Van, *The Green Collar Economy*, (New York: HarperCollins, 2008), pp. 145-181.

Servon, Lisa, “Micro-enterprise Development in the United States: Current Challenges and New Directions,” *Economic Development Quarterly*, Vol. 12, No. 4, 2006.

**March 8                      Regional Assessments Due – Class Presentations**

**March 15                     Spring Break – No Class**

**March 22                    Equity: Policies Affecting Businesses, People, and Places**

Gabriel, Christina and Bomani Howze, “Regional Innovation Clusters and Urban Economic Revitalization,” February 8, 2011.

Jones, Van *The Green Collar Economy*, (New York: HarperCollins, 2008), pp 1-77.

Oden, Michael, “Equity the Forgotten E in Sustainable Development,” in Steven Moore (ed.) *Pragmatic Sustainability*, (Routledge, 2010).

Oden, Michael, *Building a More Sustainable Economy: Economic Development Strategy and Public Incentives in Austin*, Austin Texas: Liveable City, July 2008. optional

Saha, Devashree and Robert Paterson, “Local Government Efforts to Promote the “Three Es” of Sustainable development: Survey in Medium to Large Cities in the U.S.” *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 28;21, 2008, pp. 21-37.

**March 29                    Green Jobs: Prospects and Challenges**

Jones, Van, *The Green Collar Economy*, (New York: HarperCollins, 2008), pp 116-144

Pinderhuges, Raquel, “Green Collar Jobs,” Berkeley, California, City of Berkeley, Office of Energy& Sustainable Development, 2007 - Exec Summary optional

Texas Workforce Commission, *Green Collar Workers and Other Mythical Creatures*, Austin: Labor Market and Career Information Department, April 2008.

The Apollo Alliance, *New Energy for Cities: Energy Savings and Job Creation Policies for Local Governments*, 2008, pp. 46-52.

The Apollo Alliance and Green for All, *Green Collar Jobs in America’s Cities: Building Pathways out of Poverty and Careers in the Green Collar Economy*, 2007. optional

White Sarah and Jason Walsh, "Green Pathways: Jobs and Workforce Development in the Clean Energy Economy," Milwaukee; Center on Wisconsin Strategy, 2008. optional

#### **April 5                      Sustainable Rural Strategies**

Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities, "Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities," Fall 2011.

Evans-Cowley, Jennifer and Angel Arroyo-Rodriguez, "Mississippi Gulf Coast Advances Sustainability Plan," *BioCycle*, January 2012, Vol. 53, No. 1, p. 52.

National Association of Development Organizations, "Regional Approaches to Sustainable Development: Linking Economic, Transportation, and Environmental Infrastructure in Rural and Small Metropolitan America," September 2011.

#### **April 12                      Cultural Industries, the Creative Class and Amenity Rich Cities**

Florida, Richard *The Rise of the Creative Class: And How It's Transforming Work Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*, pp. 21-82, 235-266.

Markusen, Ann, "Urban Development and the Politics of the Creative Class; Evidence from the Study of Artists," *Environment and Planning A*, Vol 38, 2006.

Oden, Michael, "Targeting Cultural and Artistic Industries: Local Economic Development Fad or Opportunity?" Draft paper 2010.

TXP, "The Economic Impact of the Creative Sector in Austin – 2012 Update," A Study for the City of Austin, February 2012.

#### **April 19                      Incentives and Evaluation**

Aaronson, Becca, "Texas Enterprise Fund Lures Business to Texas, But Jobs Numbers Disputed," *The Texas Tribune*, December 23, 2011.

Bartik, Timothy. "Solving the Problems of Economic Development Incentives," *Growth and Change*, Vol. 36, No.2, pp. 139-166.

Morgan, Jonathan, "Analyzing the Benefits and Costs of Economic Development Projects," *Community and Economic Development Bulletin*, No. 7, April 2010.

Thomas, Kenneth, "Are Incentives Ever Good Policy," *The Middle Class Political Economist*, December 4, 2011.

Thomas, Kenneth, "State and Local Subsidies to Business More Out of Control than Ever," *The Middle Class Political Economist*, November 27, 2011.

**April 26**

**Professional Proposals Due – Class Presentations**

**May 3**

**New Visions of Economic Growth and Development (Wrap-up)**

Cohen, Mark and Michael Vandenburg, “Consumption, Happiness and Climate Change, Vanderbilt University Law School, Research Paper no. 08-21, 2008

Jones, Van, *The Green Collar Economy*, (New York: HarperCollins, 2008), pp 182-194

**Final Take-Home Exam Passed Out – May 3**

**Final Take-Home Exam Due – May 10**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Exceptions to this rule include involuntary absences due to illness or family emergencies. In all cases the responsibility for making up missed work rests solely with the student.