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:


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:

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade Equivalent</th>
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<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-80</td>
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<td>79-77</td>
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<td>76-74</td>
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<td>73-70</td>
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<td>63-60</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>59 or below</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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


Public and Private Benefit Model Handout

February 2        Explaining the Location of Economic Activity


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

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


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


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.


March 29 Green Jobs: Prospects and Challenges


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


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.


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


April 19  Incentives and Evaluation


April 26  Professional Proposals Due – Class Presentations

May 3  New Visions of Economic Growth and Development (Wrap-up)


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.