

AECO 4080.001/5050.001
Economic and Community Development

Fall 2009

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Class website: www.unt.edu/aeco/clower/econcommdev.htm

Class Location: Wooten Hall, Room 110
Class Dates: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.

Course Description

This course acquaints students with the theory and practice of local and regional economic and community development. We will consider how economic development is pursued by practitioners, policy makers, and local elected officials. The course goal is for students to gain a basic understanding of development theory and how theory leads to practice, and perhaps most importantly, to the creation and implementation of strategies to enhance local development. In achieving the learning objectives described below, we will use a combination of textbook readings, lectures, class discussion, case studies, exercises, and guest speaker presentations.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify basic theories of regional growth
2. Understand the differences between regional/local economic growth and economic development.
3. Understand sources and uses of data describing economic and community development.
4. Recognize the political context of the practice of economic and community development.
5. Identify and understand the logic behind the most common economic development strategies undertaken by cities and other local governments.
6. Have a basic understanding of approaches used to finance economic and community development strategies.
7. Identify and understand metrics used to assess the performance/value of economic and community development efforts.

Course texts:

Blakely, E. & Leigh, N.L. (2010). *Planning Local Economic Development: Theory and Practice* (4th Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Course Structure, Requirements, Grading Criteria

While we will use a combination of lectures, guest presentations, student research, projects, and discussions to achieve our learning goals. Students will use class readings from texts and other sources and any lectures I offer as the basis for discussion. As such, it is imperative that you read each week's reading assignment **before** coming to class. My lectures will augment the readings, not parrot them. Your grades will consist of 4 components: 1) two tests, 2) class participation, 3) a semester case study, and 4) a class project.

In addition to text chapters, I will post links to articles, case studies, and other materials to the class website. Check the class website each week for a list of possible additional readings. The additional readings will be posted by class time the week before they are to be covered.

There will be two tests during the semester. A mid term tentatively scheduled for the week of March 8 and a final exam. Each test will cover materials from the weeks preceding lectures and guest presentations. The tests will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, definitions, and one or 2 short essay questions.

Class participation is based on quality, not just quantity of participation. Participation also assumes attendance. Attendance is mandatory; however, I realize that professional obligations may require you to miss a class. I expect the courtesy of prior notification if you are to miss class by phone call or email. Each week we will also review relevant news stories from the north central Texas region. **Students should read at least one of the area's major newspapers (Dallas Morning News/Fort Worth Star Telegram) on a daily basis and come prepared to discuss relevant stories.**

Each student will be required to present a review of a case study relevant to economic and community development. The case study should address specific economic and community development objectives/goals, the strategy employed to achieve the objectives, and the outcome. Each student will be required to make a brief, 5-10 minute presentation of their case study. We will begin the case study presentations the week after spring break. Your presentation schedule will be based on a random draw. Your written report will include a brief (3-5 pages) report summarizing the case. You must get the instructor's approval for your case selection. More information on the case study will be distributed in class.

The class project will be announced during the first or second week of class. Students will be assigned to groups and each group will be given specific tasks to perform. Your grade will be based on the quality of your group's contribution and an assessment of your performance by fellow group members.

Grading

Tests: 45% (22.5% each)

Case study: 20%

Participation: 15%

Group project: 20%

Class conduct

I expect all students to conduct themselves in a professional manner with courtesy shown to the instructor and your fellow students. You may bring drinks into the classroom, but food is not permitted.

ADA and Religious Holiday Notice

If you have a disability that requires some accommodation in course materials, procedures or exams, you should inform me no later than the 12th class day as specified in the academic calendar. Similarly, if you must miss class due to the strictures of a religious holiday, you must give me notice no later than the 12th class day. For fall 2009, the 12th class day is September 14.

Course calendar

This is the course calendar as planned. We may change some topics and dates if the need arises. Reading assignments represent chapters in Blakely (B-chapter number). Do not forget to check the website each week for additional readings.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
9/2	Introductions. What is economic and community development?	
9/9	Theories of regional development.	B-1, B-3
9/16	Policy framework for economic development.	B-2
9/23	Planning for economic development.	B-5
9/30	Data sources and uses.	
10/7	Data analysis and techniques in economic development.	B-6
10/14	Development organizations and practitioners. Economic development strategies	B-4, B-13, B-7, B-8
10/21	Mid term exam	
10/28	Development Incentives.	Handouts
11/4	Tourism, gaming, and sports as economic development. (Begin case study presentations)	Handouts
11/11	Special areas: brownfields, distressed.	Handouts
11/18	Economic development for rural areas. High tech as a development strategy.	Handouts, B-14
11/25	Workforce development. Community development, micro-enterprise, entrepreneurship.	B-10, B-11
12/2	Bringing it all together. Evaluating economic development programs.	B-12
12/9	Review. Case study presentations.	
12/16	Final exam	