Georgia State University
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

PMAP 4451: Economic Development Policy
Fall 2015
Course Syllabus

1. Administrative Information

Instructor: Protip Biswas
Time: Thursdays 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Location:
Office Hours: By appointment only
Email: pbiswas@gsu.edu
Phone: 404 527 7237

2. Course Objectives

This course will provide a broad overview of theories and models of urban growth and economic development, as well as the strategies and practices in implementing it. The city is a dynamic system and this course will provide a contextual understanding of the economic, social, demographic, and political forces that shape the development and community life of urban areas, as well as the agents involved and the planning process. Students will understand the challenges of developing regions, cities and communities that are economically dynamic, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable. Students will be exposed to both long-standing debates and recent developments in economic development practice and theory. Students will also be acquainted with the resources and techniques instrumental in the analysis of economic development policies and programs. This course requires extensive reading, case preparation, analytic writing, and class debate.

To be more specific, the learning objectives are:

1) **Theory**: to examine the theoretical foundations of urban growth and economic development and be familiar with the major theories of how economic development occurs at various levels;

2) **Context**: to understand how economic, social, and political forces shape local communities and influence urban policy making regarding local growth and development, and examine the context in which development occurs;

3) **Instruments**: to gain familiarity with the instruments (principles, tools, and techniques) for carrying out local economic development, their effectiveness, and their impacts on local communities; as well as to understand the roles of institutions involved in the development process;
(4) **Functional policy applications**: to learn about the issues, principles, and methods for managing local growth and development in a variety of functional areas, such as land use and transportation, housing, infrastructure, and human capital and workforce development;

(5) **Trade craft**: to demonstrate the ability to assess and formulate economic development strategy for an urban area and professional writing and presentation skills.

### 3. Course Materials

**Primary Text:**

**Recommended Text:**

Other readings will be available online or posted on Brightspace/Desire2Learn.

**Other useful resources:**

1. Brookings Institute, Metropolitan Policy Program
2. Department of Housing and Urban Development
4. *Economic Development Quarterly*
5. *Housing Policy Debate*

### 4. Course Requirement and Evaluation

Class sessions will be a mixture of lectures and class discussions/debates. Additional readings and course materials will be provided on Brightspace. Course grades will be determined as follows:

1. Economic Strategy Exercise (Individual) 20%
2. Cluster Analysis (Group) 15%
3. Metro Atlanta Project (Individual) 20%
4. Case Study Presentation and Report (Group) 25%
5. Final paper (Individual) 15%
6. Class Attendance and Participation 5%

**Economic strategy exercise**: students will complete one short (around 5 double spaced pages) individually-written case study of an economic development strategy and discuss it in class. It can be a city, region, or a single project.

**Economic Strategy Exercise due date**: September 23rd
**Cluster analysis:** students will work in groups of 2 as consultants for a regional/metropolitan area/local economic development agency. Location quotient and cluster analysis will be performed to examine the industrial mix of the area as well as its competitive advantage.

Cluster analysis due date: October 14th

**Metro ATL Project:** Students will identify a development project in some part of Metro Atlanta. They will consider themselves consultants doing an initial proposal to the client. They will visit the site and then identify 1 or 2 issues that might need to be addressed. They will then provide a summary of an approach to the solution. A double spaced 6-8 page paper will be submitted. The paper should include 2 pages of photographs at site (including a photo/selfie of the consultants at location).

Metro ATL project due date: October 28th

**Case study presentation and report:** students will work in groups of 4 as consultants for regional/metropolitan area/local economic development agency. In addition to the cluster analysis, you will also look at the social, economic and demographic characteristics of the city. You will then analyze current economic development strategies that the city is undertaking and assess whether these are effective strategies. You will incorporate both the results that such initiatives have had thus far on the region AND you will assess the “fit” of such strategies with your own socioeconomic analysis of the region. Is the city fully maximizing its strengths? If not, devise your own economic development strategy that is most suitable for the city and the opportunities and challenges of implementing it. You need to tie your analysis with the relevant debates and theories that we read in class. All members of the team must be involved in researching and presenting the materials.

The report will be around 10 pages double spaced excluding appendix and references. The presentation can be around 10-15 minutes and should include a power point.

Case study presentation and report due date: November 19th

**Final Paper:** will be a take home essay. The choice of topics will be provided to the students a week or more before the semester is over. Students will write a double spaced, 5 paged essay (excluding appendix and reference).

Final paper due date: December 9th
*Memos and reports are due in HARD COPY at the beginning of class or ELECTRONICALLY to Brightspace by the specified time. Late assignments will be graded down substantially, and a passing grade will not be assigned unless all assignments are completed.*

**Class participation:** students are expected to read materials before class, attend each class and to participate actively in class discussions.

*Student attendance is mandatory. It is recognized that students may be unable to attend class as a result of observance of recognized religious holidays of the student’s faith, serious illness, or family emergencies. In such cases, students are responsible for the missed material, and are encouraged to obtain class notes from other students.*

Quizzes and attendance checks will be scheduled throughout the course. Those with 3 or more absences will not receive a passing grade for this course.

5. Course Policies

(1) Please advise the instructor if you have a documented disability that needs to be accommodated and provide documentation from [GSU Disability Services](http://www.gsu.edu/disability/services).

(2) All students are responsible for knowing and following [GSU’s Policy on Academic Honesty](http://www.gsu.edu/academic-affairs/policies/academic-honesty-policy). Each student is expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and responsible for avoiding any activity that suggests cheating on a test. Please refer to the [GSU Code of Conduct](http://www.gsu.edu/academic-affairs/policies/code-conduct) for further explanation of the University policy.

3) The University has very specific policies on [Dropping Classes and Voluntary Withdrawal](http://www.gsu.edu/academic-affairs/policies/dropping-classes) from courses, with possible penalties for withdrawals after the first two weeks of courses. For the only exception to this policy, see the [Hardship Withdrawal](http://www.gsu.edu/academic-affairs/policies/hardship-withdrawal) information on the Dean of Students web site.

(4) This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Guest lectures and field trips might be scheduled along the way and students will be notified in advance.

(5) Turn off cell phones and keep them off the desk during lectures and exams. Text messaging during class is strictly prohibited and grounds for dismissal.

(6) Final grades will not be posted or given out over the phone or via email
6. Course Schedule

August 27  Course Introduction and Overview

Brookings: Blueprint for American Prosperity: Unleashing the Potential of a Metropolitan Nation
Video: http://www.brookings.edu/events/2007/1106blueprint.aspx Transcript:


The Challenge for Metropolitan Atlanta (Brookings)

Brookings Atlanta Conference
http://www.brookings.edu/events/2013/03/20-gci-atlanta

September 03  Urban Growth and Problems


Kitson et al. (2004). Regional Competitiveness: An Elusive yet Key Concept. Regional Studies 38(9), 991-999.


September 10  Urban Growth and Problems (Continued)


September 17  Economic Development: Concepts and Theories

Leigh and Blakely:
Chapter 1: “The Enduring Argument for Taking Local Economic Development Planning
Chapter 2: “The Influence of National and State Policies on Local Economic Development”
Chapter 3: “Concepts and Theories of Local Economic Development”


***Individual Economic Strategy case exercise due to Brightspace dropbox by September 23***

September 24  Economic Development: Various Strategies

Leigh and Blakely:
Chapter 8: “Locality Development”
Chapter 9: “Business Development”
Chapter 10: “Human Resource Development”
Chapter 11: “Community Economic Development”


October 01  Economic Development: Tools and Techniques I

Leigh and Blakely
Chapter 6: “Introduction to Analytical Methods for Local Economic Development Planning”
Chapter 7: “Local Economic Development Strategy”

October 08  Economic Development: Tools and Techniques II
Lab session

***Group cluster analysis assignment due to Brightspace dropbox by October 14. ***
October 15  Economic Development as a Process

Leigh and Blakely:  
Chapter 4: “The Local Economic Development Profession and Professionals”  
Chapter 5: “The Local Economic Development Planning Process”  
Chapter 12: “Building the Implementation Plan”  
Chapter 13: “Institutional Approaches to Local Economic Development”

October 22  Economic Development in the International Context

Mike Davis, “The Urban Climacteric” in The Planet of Slums, Verso.

Barney Cohen. 2006. “Urbanization in Developing Countries: Current Trends, Future Projections, and Key Challenges for Sustainability” Technology in Society, 28, 63-80


*** Metro ATL project exercise due to Brightspace dropbox by October 28***

October 29  Metro ATL issues and discussions

Presentations and discussion of Issues in Metro Atlanta.

November 05  Diversity, Creativity and Economic Development


**November 12  Technology, Universities and Economic Development**

Leigh and Blakely  
Chapter 13: “Local Economic Development Planning’s Response to the Flatter and Climate-Challenged World”


[http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Research/Files/Papers/2013/1/15%20technology%20innovation%20policy.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Research/Files/Papers/2013/1/15%20technology%20innovation%20policy.pdf)

**November 19  Case Study Group Presentations**

***Case Study Report due in class by Nov 19 in both hard copy***

**November 26 THANKSGIVING ( No Class)**

**December 03  Entrepreneurship, Small Business and Economic Development**


***Final paper due in Brightspace dropbox by December 9***