(Urban and Regional) Economic Development Seminar  PLAN 773

Department of City and Regional Planning

Instructor:  Professor Meenu Tewari
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Class meets T, R: 3:30-4:45
Room: 220, Murphey Hall
Office hours: T: 11-12:30 pm
or, by appointment.

Course Description

This course critically examines fundamental concepts and theories of economic development, and traces how policy thinking about the development process has evolved over time. Changing global economic trends, and new findings from extensive empirical research over the past few decades have posed several new challenges to our understanding of how regions develop, change, and grow. We will use directed readings, policy debates, and case materials to examine how our current thinking about key development problems—such as economic growth, fairness and inequity, employment, competitiveness, industrial upgrading, skill formation, the organization of work, and of urban resources (infrastructures) and institutional arrangements that undergird them—has changed in light of new local and global challenges. We will frame this evolution in the context of narratives about the regulatory transition from the first industrial revolution, through the second, to the third and on to current debates about the so-called fourth industrial revolution. We ask what these frameworks mean for planners and activists interested in equitable and inclusive local economies.

The course has three components. The first introduces students to historical debates about economic development, their policy implications and how they have been applied to issues of local and regional development. The second part examines how these debates have shifted in recent years in response to the emergence of new problems in economic development such as globalization, outsourcing, the rise of the “new competition” and the need for regions and localities to find new ways to adjust and prosper in the face of deepening inequality, an uncertain and volatile global economy and new threats such as a changing climate. How do these new pressures alter normative debates about place, upward mobility and economic progress? How do they change our thinking about economic development theory, policy and practice? What does it mean for regulation and governance of local economies? The third component uses case studies to address some of these questions. It examines some current approaches, models and institutional arrangements that cities and regions are experimenting with to navigate uncertain environments. In this last section we will pay particular attention to the implementation challenges of economic development programs.

Throughout the course we will employ an institutional lens to understand and interrogate organizations, processes, behaviors and norms – both tacit and formal, that undergird economic development processes. We will address these issues in a comparative, developed-developing
country context, drawing on case material from North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe.

Interwoven with the second and third modules of the course are opportunities to hear from and engage in discussion with visiting researchers and development practitioners.

**Course Objectives**

The core objective of the course is to help students gain a clear understanding of the prominent theories of economic development and how they have evolved over time, and with what consequences for policy and development outcomes on the ground. More importantly, the goal of the course is to help peel away the layers of orthodox economic development theories to shine a light on the assumptions that undergird them, as well as understand the inner, often hidden, workings of economic development projects and processes. We will ask: what works well and why, what does not work and why not, in order to move beyond binaries of good vs. bad performance, bottom up vs. top down development, centralized vs. decentralized development, states vs. markets. Instead, we will develop tools to build frameworks that help us understand development as a more malleable and contingent process, with multiple, often contradictory, facets. Focusing on the conditions under which particular theoretical propositions hold (or not) allows us to move away from homogenizing, general theoretical accounts to ground theoretical insights in reflective and grounded practice. It helps us better understand the institutional forces that may contribute to broad based, locally rooted, inclusive and resilient development; and why this happens more readily in some places, and times and not others.

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- **identify** and **compare** prominent theories of economic development;
- **describe** how these theories have evolved over time;
- **understand** the consequences of these theories for policy and development outcomes; and
- **identify** parameters and conditions under which theoretical propositions hold or not in concrete, real world settings; and together, take a step towards reflective practice.

**Course Organization**

The course will be taught as a seminar, and high levels of class participation are required. After an initial lecture-based stage-setting, the course will proceed in discussion format. Discussion will be centered around drawing out connections between theory and practice through case examples. Student groups will lead discussion in the second half of class, elaborating, clarifying, critiquing, and applying the theories discussed in class to concrete, contemporary development problems and issues.
Required readings will be posted on Sakai and are available for downloading. Specific readings may be distributed in class.

Please note that I reserve the right to add readings or change some of them as I get to know you and your interests better, or come across relevant material.

Course Requirements

I expect respectful exchange in class and everyone’s full participation. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having done the assigned readings and ready to actively participate in class discussions. I expect all discussions to be respectful and generative, where we give everyone the room to speak and consider differences in opinions as adding new dimensions to our understanding of issues.

Attendance

The class is a seminar, and it will will require everyone’s presence to function successfully. Please let me ahead of time if you have an extenuating reason for not attending class. Unless there is a documented emergency, all unexcused absences will result in a full letter grade reduction.

Course grades will be based on the following:

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>Active participation in class discussions</strong> involves coming to class prepared to ask good questions and present considered responses to questions raised by others in class. Active participation is a requirement (15% of the grade)</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 1:</strong> Ethnography of Development: Analyzing hidden success or an implementation puzzle. You will conduct an interview with planners (or one planner) in a development organization of their choice to understand economic development processes or implementation surprises. The goal of the exercise is to learn interviewing skills and to understand how development processes actually work on the ground, how ‘theory’ translates into practice and why projects work well sometimes, and not at other times. I can provide you a list of local organizations to begin, but you are free to chose your own. You will present their synthetic findings in a 5-6 page (double-spaced) essay and share your key findings with the class orally in a short presentation. This assignment carries 20% of the grade and is due on 10/8.</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment 2:</strong> Short (2-4 paragraph) reflections on any 5 class-sessions should be posted on the Sakai Forum section by the evening before class (latest 6pm) that you choose to write about. You should choose sessions other than the ones</td>
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you are leading discussion on. **15% of the grade.** I will read the reflections and may provide brief remarks, but they will not be graded. You earn the full 15% simply by submitting them all.

**Assignment 3:** All students are expected to leading class discussion for at least one class session on a topic selected from a list I will circulate in the second week of class. Leading class discussion involves making a 20-25 minute long presentation on the pre-selected topic, and bringing in relevant case study examples to share with the class. You will also be responsible for circulating discussion questions prior to class and leading discussion for the rest of that session, and for bringing a one page handout to class. **20% of the grade.**

**Assignment 4:** Final Assignment. A 10-15 page, double spaced case-based paper that either builds on the implementation surprise reported on in the ethnography of development interview, or any other example of an economic development innovation, dilemma, puzzle or success in a specific planning context. You can opt to work in groups of two on the paper, or work individually. **The final paper and presentation together account for 30% of the grade.** The presentation will take place in class on 11/26 and 12/3, and the final paper is due by 12/5. Peer evaluations will contribute towards 5% of the grade for this assignment.

**Weights:**

1. Active participation in class discussions…………….15% of the grade
2. Leading one discussion session…………………………20% (including 5% peer evaluation)
3. Ethnography of Development (an interview based class project – 6 double spaced pages)………20%
4. Short reflections on any 5 class sessions to be posted on Sakai………….15%
5. Final Paper/Case Study…………………………………………………………...30%

**The UNC Honor Code applies:** [https://studentconduct.unc.edu/faculty/honor-syllabus](https://studentconduct.unc.edu/faculty/honor-syllabus)

All your work must be properly referenced. You must provide citations for all ideas that are not your own. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form.

**Late assignments** will be marked down by a half letter grade unless there is a documented emergency.
Guest Speakers

We will be inviting guest speakers to the class. You are invited to suggest names of potential speakers whom you would like to hear. Speakers may be economic development professionals, academic researchers, policy makers, or others with applied knowledge of the field.

Course Outline

1. 8/20 (T): Introduction and Overview

Module 1a: Institutions of the First Industrial Revolution and its Spatial and Policy Implications

3. 8/27 (T): Efficiency, Specialization and the Division of Labor
4. 8/29 (R): Structural Transformation and Modernization: Linear, homogenizing or disruptive?
5. 9/3 (T): Regional Development: Economic Base Models
6. 9/5 (R): Location Theory – urban economics and the structure of cities – Metropolitization (Guest Lecture, Professor Yan Song, TBC)
7. 9/10 (T): Growth Poles, Balanced and Unbalanced Growth, linkages, Spread and Backwash Effects
8. 9/12 (R): Dualism and Segmentation -- Institutions of Fordism

Module 2: The Second Industrial Divide: Industrialization, De-Industrialization and the Rise of the Networked Economy

9. 9/17 (T): Deindustrialization and Industrial Restructuring
10. 9/19 (R): Transformation of Work: Low Road vs High Performance Work Systems

Module 2: Processes, Mechanisms, Organizations, Norms and Networks: Complicating the Received Wisdom

11. 9/24 (T): Clusters, Agglomeration Economies and Local Resilience
12. 9/26 (R): Global Value Chains
13. 10/1 (T): Creative Class and Creative Cities – Redevelopment or Displacement?
14. 10/3 (R): The New Informalities
15. 10/8 (T): Class Presentations (Ethnographies of Development)
16. 10/10 (R): Protecting Local Jobs and the Retention of Land for Urban Manufacturing
17. 10/15 (T): Innovation Districts and Entrepreneurship - Guest Lecture by Dr. Henry McKoy
18. 10/17 (R): FALL BREAK – NO CLASS

Module 2b: The Third Industrial Revolution?
19. 10/22 (T): The Renewables Revolution and the Rise of the Green Economy

Module 2c: The Emergent Institutions of the Fourth Industrial Revolution?
20. 10/24: (R): Maker Spaces and the Gig Economy – Guest Lecture – Professor Noah Kittner (TBC)
22. 10/31 (R): Economic Resilience in the Shadow of a Changing Climate - Guest Lecture, Professor Miyuko Hino

23. 11/5 (T): Collaboration, Cooperation and Collective Action
24. 11/7 (R): Social Networks and Social Capital
25. 11/12 (T): Bureaucracy, Regulation, and Front Line Workers
26. 11/14 (R): Coordination Redundancy and Overlap: Pragmatist Insights about What Works
27. 11/19 (T): Participation, Decentralization and Partnerships
28. 11/21 (R): The Influence of the Environment, Technology and Nature of the Task
29. 11/26 (T): Class Presentations
30. 11/28: THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
31. 12/3: Class presentations

Class Schedule and Readings
Introduction

8/20 (T): Introduction and overview

Davidson, Adam. 2012. Why are some countries rich and others poor?  
http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2012/03/16/148680705/why-are-some-countries-rich-and-others-poor

8/22 (R): Means and Ends: Economic Growth vs. Economic Development

Assignment 1 handed out.


Flammang


Module 1: Institutions of the First Industrial Revolution

8/27 (T): Specialization, Efficiency and the Division of Labor: Historical Formulations


8/29 (R): Structural Transformation and Modernization: Stages Theory of Growth

Please bring your tablets or laptops for an in-class exercise


9/3 (T): Economic Base Models – Sizing the Local Economy


Tendler, Judith, The Economic Wars Between the States, Mimeo.

Optional


Donegan, Mary, Lester and Low. 2018. Incentives.

9/5 (R): Location theory, Urban Renewal, and the Rise of Metropolitan Economies – Guest Speaker, Professor Yan Song


Services - Noyelle, T. 1983. The rise of advanced services: some implications for economic development in U.S. cities. JAPA 49, 280-90

9/10 (T): Growth Poles and Growth Linkages; Spread and Backwash Effects


Dohnert, Sylvia: Case Study

9/12 (R) Dualism and Segmentation: Institutions of Fordism


Internal Labor Markets


Module 2: The Second Industrial Divide and the Rise of the Networked Economy

9/17 (T): De-Industrialization, Restructuring, and the Search for New Models of Economic Development


9/19 (R):  Work Transformed: The low Road vs High Performance Work Systems

Batt and Appelbaum. 1994. The Transformation of Work


Optional


9/24 (T): Clusters and the making of resilient local economies


9/26 (R): Global Value Chains: Addressing new Vulnerabilities by Recombining 'Work, Place and Workplace'


10/1 (T): The Pursuit of the Creative Class in Creative Cities – Re-development or Displacement?

Richard Florida. 2016. The Creative City. Chapter 1 and Conclusions. (On Sakai)

Mary Donegan AICP, Joshua Drucker AICP, Harvey Goldstein AICP, Nichola Lowe AICP & Emil Malizia AICP (2008) Which Indicators Explain Metropolitan Economic Performance Best? Traditional or Creative Class, Journal of the American Planning Association, 74:2, 180-195, DOI: 10.1080/01944360801944948 To link to this article: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01944360801944948


10/3 (R): The New Informalities


Pires, Roberto, Day labor in New York City. Mimeo


Optional:


Sai Balakrishnan 2016. Economic Corridors and the New Informality
10/8 (T): Ethnographies of Development: Class Presentations

*Bridging Institutional Arrangements - Technology and Place*

10/10 (R): Protecting Local Jobs and Retention of Urban Land for Manufacturing – Pros and Cons


GIDC Case Study

Optional


10/15 (T) Innovation Districts and the New Entrepreneurship: Whom is Included? Who is Excluded? *Guest Speaker Dr. Henry McKoy, NCCU (TBC)*


10/17 (R): Fall Break – No Class

Module 2b: Third Industrial Revolution?


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9Ts9nGGjho


Basu, Kaushik. Beyond the Invisible Hand: Groundwork for a New Economics. Chapter 1

Module 2c: Technological Leaps and the Fourth Industrial Revolution?

10/24 (R): Maker Spaces and the Gig Economy: New Vulnerabilities and New Opportunities - Guest Lecture, Professor Noah Kittner (TBC)

Uber is Not the Future of Work. 2015 The Atlantic. 


Optional:

http://www.technologyreview.com/review/508821/the-difference-between-makers-and-manufacturers/
10/29 (T): Recombinant Spaces: The Interpenetration of Rural and Urban Economies, and of Production and Social Reproduction


10/31 (R): Economic Adaptation and Resilience in a Changing Climate—Guest Lecture, Dr. Myuki Hino (TBC)


11/5 (T): Collaboration, Cooperation and Collective Action


11/7 (R): Social Networks, Social Capital


Optional Resources


11/12 (T): Coordination, Redundancy and Overlap: Pragmatist Insights about What Works


Optional:


11/14 (R): Bureaucracy, Regulation and Front Line Workers

(All) Lipsky, Michael. Street Level Bureaucracy. Chapters TBA.


11/19 (T): Decentralization, Participation and Partnerships


11/21 (R): The Influence of Technology, the Environment and the Nature of the Task


Optional


11/26 (T): Class Presentations

11 (R): Thanksgiving – No class

12/3 (T): Class presentations