
UAP 5104 – Urban & Regional Development Theory

Fall 2007

Tuesdays 4:15 – 6.45 pm

Location: Alexandria: Polycomm Room / Blacksburg: Architecture Annex, Rm 200

Professor: Heike Mayer
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Office Hours:
1021 Prince Street, Room 204
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Web access to course material:

<https://learn.vt.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Office hours by appointment

Web Assistance/Help Desk:

User Services (231-HELP) or <http://4help.vt.edu>

Course Description

This course explores the literature on urban and regional development theories. We will examine the factors that contribute to the growth or decline of cities and regions. The readings focus on competing explanations of spatial economic patterns and development and draw from a variety of disciplines including economic geography, political science, economic sociology, and urban studies and planning. We will also consider the implications of each theory for the practice of planning as well as urban and regional analysis.

Applying each theory to contemporary urban and regional development patterns will be an important objective of the class. To illustrate development patterns and to apply the theories, students will conduct a “*regional audit*” for a region in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Learning Objectives

Through this course you will

- become familiar with the basic concepts and theories of urban and regional economic development.
- be able to apply urban and regional development theories to the practice of planning, in particular economic development.
- gain an understanding about emerging drivers of urban and regional growth or decline, and the challenges cities and regions face.
- understand the distinction between growth and development and the complex interrelationships between the economy, the environment, and social equity.

Required readings

Malizia, E., & Feser, E. (1999). *Understanding local economic development*. New Brunswick: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. ISBN: 0882851632 (in the following referred to as M&F)

Additional readings are posted on Blackboard

Assignments

1. Participation

My teaching philosophy is based on the understanding that as a teacher, I'm a facilitator of your learning. In return, I expect that you come prepared to each session, that you have read the material, that you contribute constructively to class discussions, and that you take ownership and responsibility of the assigned tasks.

2. Class facilitation (once during the semester)

You will sign up to facilitate the discussion of the readings for one class session. This will require you to lead the class discussion and to guide your colleagues in understanding the assigned readings. There are two parts to the assignment: an e-mail submission of a discussion guide on the day before the facilitation begins and the facilitation itself. Depending on enrollment, it is likely that two people have to sign up for each class session. They would need to coordinate the facilitation among themselves.

3. Reading & Idea Notes

Each week, students need to prepare a set of reading notes and ideas (approximately 250 words). These notes are due at 11 am on the day of the class on the Blackboard discussion board. The notes may be informal contributions of your thoughts, ideas, and questions on the readings. Make sure that you discuss the entire set of readings. You may want to discuss the ways the readings relate to each other.

4. Regional Audit

In groups, students will research and analyze a region within the Commonwealth of Virginia. The region could be Northern Virginia, the New River Valley, Southside Virginia, Hampton Roads, etc. The research effort will involve the use of publicly available data sets to analyze the economic dimensions of a region. The audit ought to analyze overall employment and growth over time, changes in the industrial structure and specialization, changes in the occupational structure, and other economic indicators such as changes in trade, migration patterns, and business location patterns. Groups will present their findings in class. Detailed instructions will be handed out in class.

5. Research Paper: Application of Theory

Each student will be required to design, research, and write a paper based on the application of concepts and theories presented during the semester. Detailed instructions will follow. Paper Length: 20-25 pages.

Theories to choose from include (you can also choose others, but please discuss them with me):

- Economic base theory
- Trade theory
- Product cycle theory
- New growth theory
- Theories of concentration and diffusion
- Theories of flexible production
- Industrial district theory
- Industry cluster theory
- Entrepreneurship theory
- Creative class theory
- Technology-based theories
- Migration
- New regionalism

The paper presentations are scheduled for November 27 and December 4, 2007.

Grading

Participation Class participation Facilitation Presentations	15%
Reading & Idea Notes	15%
Regional Audit	20%
Research paper	50%

Virginia Tech's Honor Pledge

I expect that all assignments in this class conform to Virginia Tech's Honor Pledge as well as to the usual academic standards. The pledge states that "I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment." This means that you will refrain from plagiarism and cheating or from any other form of receiving unauthorized assistance.

For more information, see: <http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

Special Needs

Any student with special needs or circumstances should feel free to meet with me during office hours.

Other Policies

- **Reference & Writing Style**

All written assignments should be typed and double-spaced (the convention is to use 12 point font like Times Roman with a 1 inch margin on the sides). You should follow the reference style of the American Psychological Association. This reference style is the most common in urban planning/urban studies. It involves in-text citations with the last name and the year in parentheses, i.e. (Mayer, 2005, p. 12) and a reference list, sorted by last name (and then by year) at the end of the text. Useful information can be found here:

<http://www.psywww.com/resource/APA%20Research%20Style%20Crib%20Sheet.htm#Intext>

- **Due Dates & Late Assignments**

Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of the class period in which they are due. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you need special arrangements, please discuss them with me well in advance. Late assignments will receive substantially reduced credit.

- **Draft Papers: if you want you can submit them to me in advance for feedback**

When writing your papers, please make sure that you pay attention to writing style, clarity, and grammar. Allow for enough time to edit your paper. If you want me to review your paper, you should turn in a draft at least two weeks prior to the due date. This will allow me to use a week to review it and to hand it back to you in time for more editing and writing.

Class Schedule for Fall 2006

	Date	Topic	Projects
Week 1	August 21, 2006	Introduction	
Week 2	August 28, 2006	Why study urban and regional economies?	
Week 3	September 4, 2006	What makes cities and regions grow? Neoclassical theories	
Week 4	September 11, 2006	New growth theory, trade and product cycle theories	
Week 5	September 18, 2006	What is driving NoVa and SW VA?	Guest speaker in B'burg
Week 6	September 25, 2006	Theories of flexible production, industrial districts and industry clusters	
Week 7	October 2, 2006	<i>Regional Audit Presentations</i>	Audit Paper & Presentation
Week 8	October 9, 2006	No class – Work on your research paper	
Week 9	October 16, 2006	Entrepreneurship & Creativity	
Week 10	October 23, 2006	Migration and economic development	
Week 11	October 30, 2006	Technology and economic development	
Week 12	November 6, 2006	Regional planning & governance	
Week 13	November 13, 2006	Equity, Sustainability and the Regional Economy	
Week 14	November 20, 2006	<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	
Week 15	November 27, 2006	<i>Final Presentations</i>	Paper Presentation
Week 16	December 4, 2006	<i>Final Presentations</i>	Research paper due

Bibliography for UAP 5104: Urban and Regional Development Theory

Articles are posted on Blackboard in the section “Readings”.
Additional readings might be handed out in class.

August 28, 2006 Why study urban and regional economies?

M&F Chapter 1, 2

Glaeser, E. (1998). Are cities dying? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12(2), 139-160.

Ohmae, K. (1993). The rise of the region state. *Foreign Affairs*, 72(2), 78-87.

Nelson, A. (1993). Theories of Regional Development. In R. Bingham & R. Mier (Eds.), *Theories of local economic development: Perspectives from across the disciplines* (pp. 27-57). Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

September 4, 2006 What makes cities and regions grow? Concepts & Economic base theory

M&F Chapter 3,4

Wial, H., & Friedhoff, A. (2006). *Bearing the Brunt: Manufacturing Job Loss in the Great Lakes Region, 1995-2005*. The Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program. Retrieved August 4, 2006, from the World Wide Web: http://www.brookings.edu/metro/mei/20060727_manufacturing.pdf

North, D. (1975). Location theory and regional economic growth. In J. Friedmann & W. Alonso (Eds.), *Regional policy: readings in theory and applications*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

North, D. (1975). A reply. In J. Friedmann & W. Alonso (Eds.), *Regional policy: readings in theory and applications*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Tiebout, C. (1975). Exports and regional economic growth. In J. Friedmann & W. Alonso (Eds.), *Regional policy: readings in theory and applications*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Tiebout, C. (1975). Rejoinder. In J. Friedmann & W. Alonso (Eds.), *Regional policy: readings in theory and application*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Handy resources for your regional audit:

- McLean, M., & Voytek, K. (1992). *Understanding your economy: Using analysis to guide local strategic planning*. Chicago, Illinois: Planners Press, American Planning Association.
- Cortright, J., & Reamer, A. (1998). *Socioeconomic data for understanding your regional economy*: Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.
- Familiarize yourself with: www.econdata.net

September 11, 2006 New growth theory, geographic theories, trade & product cycle

M&F Chapter 5, 6, 7, 8

Cortright, J. (2001, July). *New Growth Theory, Technology and Learning: A Practitioner's Guide*. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Retrieved August 7, 2005, from the World Wide Web: http://www.impresaconsulting.com/cortright_ngt.pdf

Wood, L. (2001). "From theory to implementation: an analysis of the Appalachian Regional Commission's growth center policy." *Environment and Planning A* 33: 551-565.

September 18, 2006 What's driving the economies of NoVa and SW Virginia?

Mayer, H., Holzheimer, T., & Glidden, H. (2005). Fostering emerging technology sectors in Arlington County: An economic development strategy for knowledge creation and innovation. *Economic Development Journal*, 4(1).

Mayer, H. (2005). *The homeland security industry and its impact on the Arlington, Virginia, economy* (Issue Paper No. 7). Arlington County: Arlington Economic Development.

Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness. (2004). *An Industry Cluster Analysis for the NewVa Region of Virginia*. Fifth Planning District Regional Alliance. Retrieved August 7, 2005, from the World Wide Web: <http://www.rvarc.org/alliance/cluster2004.pdf>

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission. (2002). *Regional Economic Strategy*. 5th Planning District. Retrieved August 7, 2005, from the World Wide Web: <http://www.rvarc.org/alliance/strategy.pdf>

September 25, 2006 Theories of flexible production , industrial districts, and industry clusters

M&F Chapter 10

Cortright, J. (2006). *Making Sense of Clusters*. The Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program. Retrieved August 4, 2006, from the World Wide Web: http://www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20060313_Clusters.pdf

Porter, M. (2000). Location, competition, and economic development: local clusters in a global economy. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 14(1), 15-34.

Feser, E., & Luger, M. (2003). Cluster analysis as a mode of inquiry: Its use in science and technology policymaking in North Carolina. *European Planning Studies*, 11(1), 11-24.

Rosenfeld, S. (2007). Cluster-based strategies for growing state economies. Retrieved August 17, 2007, from <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0702INNOVATIONCLUSTERS.PDF>

Interesting links and studies:

- Cluster studies for Virginia (uses occupation analysis): <http://www.virginiaallies.org/research.asp>

October 2, 2006 Regional Audit Presentations

Student groups will present their results.

If you want to review the theories we discussed so far, read this article:

Dawkins, C. (2003). Regional development theory: Conceptual foundations, classic works, and recent developments. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 18(2).

October 16, 2006 Entrepreneurship & Creativity

M&F Chapter 9

Feldman, M. (2001). The entrepreneurial event revisited: Firm formation in a regional context. *Industrial and corporate change*, 10(4), 861-891.

Audretsch & Feldman (1996) Knowledge spillovers and the geography of innovation and production in *American Economic Review* 86, 1996

Lee, S. Y., Florida, R., & Acs, Z. J. (2004). Creativity and entrepreneurship: A regional analysis of new firm formation. *Regional Studies*, 38(8), 879-891.

Florida, R. (2002). Bohemia and economic geography. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 2, 55-71.

Peck, J. (2005). Struggling with the Creative Class. *International Journal of urban and Regional Research*, 29(4), 740-770.

Interesting links and studies:

- Joe Cortright & Carol Coletta's study of young and restless in Portland, Richmond, Memphis, etc.: <http://www.restlessyoung.com/yar/>
- Arlington County's study of their creative class: <http://www.smartplace.org/index.cfm/9683>
- Richard Florida's website: www.creativeclass.org
- Florida's book: Florida, R. L. (2002). *The rise of the creative class: and how it's transforming work, leisure, community and everyday life*. New York, NY: Basic Books.

October 23, 2006 Migration and economic development

Goetz, S. (accessed 2006) Migration and local labor markets.
<http://www.rri.wvu.edu/WebBook/Goetz/Migx11.htm>

Valenzuela, A., Theodore, N., Melendy, E., & Gonzalez, A. (2006). *On the Corner: Day Labor in the United States*. Retrieved August 7, 2006, from the World Wide Web:
http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/issr/csup/uploaded_files/Natl_DayLabor-On_the_Corner1.pdf

Saxenian, A. (2002). Silicon Valley's new immigrant high-growth entrepreneurs. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 16(1), 20-31.

October 30, 2006 Technology & Economic Development: High tech & biotech

Goldstein, H., & Luger, M. (1993). Theory and practice in high-tech economic development. In R. Bingham & R. Mier (Eds.), *Theories of local economic development: Perspectives from across the disciplines* (pp. 147-171). Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

Sternberg, R. (1996). Regional growth theories and high-tech regions. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 20(3), 518-539.

Bresnahan, T., Gambardella, A., & Saxenian, A. (2001). 'Old economy' inputs for 'new economy' outcomes: Cluster formation in the new Silicon Valleys. *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 10(4).

Mayer, H. (2005). Taking root in the Silicon Forest: The role of high technology firms as surrogate universities in Portland, Oregon. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 71(3), 318-333.

Cortright, J., & Mayer, H. (2002). *Signs of life: The growth of biotechnology centers in the U.S.* Washington DC: The Brookings Institution

Interesting links and studies:

- Metropolitan New Economy Index (published by the Progressive Policy Institute): <http://www.neweconomyindex.org/>
- Cortright, J., & Mayer, H. (2001). *High tech specialization: A comparison of high technology centers* (Survey Series). Washington D.C.: The Brookings Institution. <http://www.brookings.edu/es/urban/cortright/specialization.pdf>
- Virginia Tech's Economic Development Studio Farmshoring study: http://www.econdev.vt.edu/clients_projects/farmshoring.html

November 6, 2006 Regional planning & governance

Foster, K. (2001). *Regionalism on purpose*. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Kanter, R. M. (2000). Business coalitions as a force for regionalism. In B. Katz (Ed.), *Reflections on regionalism*. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution.

Henton, D. (2001). Lessons from Silicon Valley: governance in a global-city region. In A. J. Scott (Ed.), *Global city-regions: trends, theory, policy*. Oxford: Oxford Press.

Dunford, M. (1994). Winners and losers: The new map of economic inequality in the European Union. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 1(2), 95-114.

Interesting links and studies:

- Alliance for Regional Stewardship: <http://www.regionalstewardship.org/>
- Pastor Jr., M., Dreier, P., Grisby III, J. E., & López-Garza, M. (2000). *Regions that work: how cities and suburbs can grow together* (Vol. 6). Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

M&F Chapter 11

Mayer, H., & Knox, P. (2005). *Slow Cities: Sustainable places in a fast world*. Unpublished draft.

Campbell, S. (1996). Green cities, growing cities, just cities? Urban planning and the contradictions of sustainable development. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 3, 296-312.

PolicyLink. (2002). *Promoting regional equity*. PolicyLink. Retrieved August 7, 2005, from the World Wide Web: <http://www.policylink.org/pdfs/RegionalEquityFraming.pdf>

Interesting links and studies:

- Check out the Portland Equity Atlas project: <http://clfuture.org/projects/atlas/>
- Slow Food & slow cities: <http://www.slowfood.com/>