
UAP 5104 – Urban & Regional Development Theory

Fall 2008

Tuesdays 7 pm to 9.30 pm

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

Professor: Heike Mayer
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Office Hours:
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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 (possibly in as a team) 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) in response to a question. These notes are due at noon on the day of the class on the Blackboard discussion board. The notes may be informal contributions of your thoughts and ideas in response to a question and should incorporate the readings. Make sure that you incorporate the entire set of readings.

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
- Theories of concentration and diffusion
- Theories of flexible production
- Industrial district theory
- Industry cluster theory
- Entrepreneurship theory
- Creative class theory
- Technology-based theories

The paper presentations are scheduled for December 2 and 9, 2008.

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 2008

	Date	Topic	Projects
Week 1	August 26, 2008	Introduction	
Week 2	September 2, 2008	Why study urban and regional economies?	
Week 3	September 9, 2008	What makes cities and regions grow? Economic base theory	
Week 4	September 16, 2008	Do economies diffuse or concentrate in space? Regional growth theories	
Week 5	September 23, 2008	What is driving the economies of Northern Virginia and Southwest Virginia?	Guest speaker in B'burg
Week 6	September 30, 2008	Why is there a Silicon Valley? Theories of flexible production & industrial districts	
Week 7	October 7, 2008	No class – Work on your audit	
Week 8	October 14, 2008	<i>Regional Audit Presentations</i>	Audit Paper & Presentation due
Week 9	October 21, 2008	Do industries cluster and network? Theories of industry clusters and networks	
Week 10	October 28, 2008	How important is innovation to regional growth? Innovation-based economies	Abstract & outline of paper due
Week 11	November 4, 2008	High-tech and biotech as drivers of regional growth? Technology and economic development	
Week 12	November 11, 2008	Do geeks and startup firms matter? Entrepreneurship & the creative class debate	
Week 13	November 18, 2008	Equity, sustainability and the regional economy	
Week 14	November 25, 2008	<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	
Week 15	December 2, 2008	<i>Final Presentations</i>	
Week 16	December 9, 2008	<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.

Week 2: 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.

Glaeser, E. L., & Gottlieb, J. D. (2006). Urban Resurgence and the Consumer City. Retrieved August 22, 2008, from <http://www.economics.harvard.edu/pub/hier/2006/HIER2109.pdf>

Cortright, J. (2002). The economic importance of being different: regional variations in tastes, increasing returns, and the dynamics of development. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 16(1).

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

Week 3: What makes cities and regions grow? Economic base theory

M&F Chapter 3, 4

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.

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

Week 4: Do economies diffuse or concentrate in space? Regional growth theories

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.

Week 5: What is driving the economies of Northern Virginia and Southwest 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.

Mayer, H., & Provo, J. (2007). Farmshoring in Virginia: Domestic Outsourcing Strategies for Linking Urban and Rural Economies in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Retrieved August 22, 2008, from http://www.nvc.vt.edu/uap/docs/Student%20Projects/award_winning_studiestudent_projects/Farmshoring_in_Virginia_FINAL%20April%202007.pdf

Week 6: Why is there a Silicon Valley? Theories of flexible production & industrial districts

M&F Chapter 10

Harrison, B. (1992). Industrial districts: old wine in new bottles? *Regional Studies*, 26(5), 469-483.

Markusen, A. (1996). Sticky places in slippery space: a typology of industrial districts. *Economic Geography*, 72(3), 293-214.

Morrison, A. (2008). Gatekeepers of Knowledge within Industrial Districts: Who They Are, How They Interact. *Regional Studies*, 42(6), 817-835.

Bathelt, H., & Schuldt, N. (2008). Between Luminaires and Meat Grinders: International Trade Fairs as Temporary Clusters *Regional Studies*, 42(6), 853-868

Week 8: Regional audit

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

Week 9: Do industries cluster and network? Theories of industry clusters and networks

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.

Mayer, H. (2005). Cluster monitor: A guide to analyzing industry clusters in regional economies. *Economic Development Journal*, 4(4), 40-53.

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>

Week 10: How important is innovation to regional growth? Innovation-based economies

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

Lester, R. K. (2005). Universities, Innovation, and the Competitiveness of Local Economies: Summary Report from the Local Innovation Project - Phase I. Retrieved December 28, 2006, from <http://web.mit.edu/ipc/publications/pdf/05-010.pdf>

Chesbrough, H. (2003). The era of open innovation. *MIT Sloan Management Review*, 44(3), 35-41.

Pew Center on the States, & National Governors Association. (2007). Investing in Innovation. Retrieved August 23, 2007, from <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0707INNOVATIONINVEST.PDF>

Week 11: High-tech and biotech as drivers of regional growth? Technology and economic development

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.

Mayer, H., & Bieri, D. (Forthcoming). Bootstrapping High-Tech. Manuscript prepared for 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. (2002). *Signs of life: The growth of biotechnology centers in the U.S.* Washington DC: The Brookings Institution

- 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

Week 12: Do geeks and startup firms matter? Entrepreneurship & the creative class debate

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.

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

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.

Hackler, D., & Mayer, H. (2008). Diversity, Entrepreneurship and Urban Environment. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 30(3), 273-307.

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.

Week 13: Equity, Sustainability and the Regional Economy

M&F Chapter 11

Mayer, H., & Knox, P. (2006). Slow Cities: Sustainable places in a fast world. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 28(4), 321-334.

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/>