



Subject: EBGN Number: 437

Course Title: Regional Economics

Section: A

Semester/year: Spring 2016

Instructor or Coordinator: Scott Houser

Contact information:

Office: 328 Engineering Hall

Office Phone: 303-384-2045

email: shouser@mines.edu

Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8-9:30 AM; Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:30 PM and by appointment (I'm on campus most of the week, so please make an appointment if my posted office hours don't work for your schedule)

Class meeting days/times: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:45 PM

Class meeting location: Engineering Hall 211

Blackboard link: blackboard.mines.edu (you may self-enroll if you are not automatically enrolled in the Blackboard course)

Instructional activity: 3 hours lecture 0 hours lab 3 semester hours

Course designation: Common Core Distributed Science or Engineering
 Major requirement x Elective x Other (H&SS elective)

Course description from Bulletin: Analysis of the spatial dimension of economies and economic decisions. Interregional capital and labor mobility. Location decisions of firms and households. Agglomeration economies. Models of regional economic growth. Measuring and forecasting economic impact and regional growth. Local and regional economic development policy. Urban and regional spatial structure. Emphasis on application of tools and techniques of regional analysis. Prerequisites: EBGN301 or EBGN302

Textbook and/or other required materials:

- **Required text:** Philip McCann, *Modern Urban and Regional Economics*, Oxford University Press, 2013 (978-0-19-958200-6).

Other required supplemental information: Additional required readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Student learning outcomes: At the conclusion of the class students will...

1. apply theoretical models to regional economic problems
2. demonstrate skills in locating, gathering, and analyzing regional economic data
3. apply standard tools of regional analysis
4. demonstrate current economic practice through practical analyses of the regional economy

Brief list of topics covered:

1. Industrial location
2. Agglomeration and clustering
3. Spatial distribution of economic activities
4. Urban spatial structure
5. Regional specialization and trade
6. Regional labor markets and migration
7. Regional economic growth
8. Local economic development policy and practice

Policy on academic integrity/misconduct: The Colorado School of Mines affirms the principle that all individuals associated with the Mines academic community have a responsibility for establishing, maintaining and fostering an understanding and appreciation for academic integrity. In broad terms, this implies protecting the environment of mutual trust within which scholarly exchange occurs, supporting the ability of the faculty to fairly and effectively evaluate every student's academic achievements, and giving credence to the university's educational mission, its scholarly objectives and the substance of the degrees it awards. The protection of academic integrity requires there to be clear and consistent standards, as well as confrontation and sanctions when individuals violate those standards. The Colorado School of Mines desires an environment free of any and all forms of academic misconduct and expects students to act with integrity at all times.

Academic misconduct is the intentional act of fraud, in which an individual seeks to claim credit for the work and efforts of another without authorization, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic exercise. Student Academic Misconduct arises when a student violates the principle of academic integrity. Such behavior erodes mutual trust, distorts the fair evaluation of academic achievements, violates the ethical code of behavior upon which education and scholarship rest, and undermines the credibility of the university. Because of the serious institutional and individual ramifications, student misconduct arising from violations of academic integrity is not tolerated at Mines. If a student is found to have engaged in such misconduct sanctions such as change of a grade, loss of institutional privileges, or academic suspension or dismissal may be imposed.

The complete policy is [online](#).

Grading Procedures:

Grades will be based upon a significant writing assignment and related class presentation, two (2) exams and class participation.

This is a writing-intensive class. The research paper will be a total of 15-20 pages on a public economics topic of your choice (with approval). A proposal for the research project is due on Thursday, 9/11. The paper will be completed in 3 sections focusing on different aspects of the topic. You will present your research in class at the end of the semester. More details are provided in a separate document.

Exams will cover both in-class material and assigned readings. Exams will focus on the economic models of public finance. You are responsible for all material presented in class and in the assigned readings.

Class meetings will focus on clarifying, practicing and discussing the material from the readings. Therefore, you will need to spend considerable time and energy before class analyzing and understanding the readings. Assessment of class participation will include evaluation of contributions to

small group and class discussion and of participation in exercises conducted during class meetings. Other graded activities including written homework and policy analyses may be assigned.

The course grades will be determined using the following weights and the plus/minus grading scale with A: 92% and greater, A-: 90% to less than 92%, B+: 88% to less than 90%, B: 82% to less than 88%, B-: 80% to less than 82%, C+: 78% to less than 80%, C: 72% to less than 78%, C-: 70% to less than 72%, D+: 68% to less than 70%, D: 60% to less than 78%, F: less than 60%.

- Research paper and presentation 55%
- Exams 30%
- Class participation, homework and other assignments 15%

Coursework Return Policy: Coursework will be returned within two weeks.

Absence Policy: Failure to attend class and to participate in group and class discussion will lower your grade. All students are advised to be familiar with CSM's policy regarding the make-up of work missed due to excused absences. This policy may be found in the Bulletin and [here](#). In short, documentation for an excused absence must be provided to the Office of the Associate Dean of Students who will then send notices of excused absence to the faculty. The method for providing this documentation is up to the Associate Dean of Students. In all cases of unexcused absences the faculty member has the right to deny the student the opportunity to make up all or part of the missed work. The Athletics Department issues excused absence notices for student athletes.

Homework: Students are expected to practice the models and methods developed in the class by completing in-class and take-home exercises. Some homework will be collected on the announced due date. Detailed answer keys will be provided for all exercises.

Detailed Course Schedule: *NOTE: The schedule and assignments are subject to change. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you were absent. All announcements will be posted on Blackboard. You should check regularly for changes to the schedule and course requirements.*

Dates	Topic	Textbook chapter
1/7	Introduction	
1/19 – 1/26	Industrial location	1
1/28 – 2/4	Agglomeration and clustering	2
2/9	No class – Career Day	
2/11 – 2/16	Spatial distribution of economic activities	3
2/18 – 2/25	Urban spatial structure	4
3/1	Exam #1	
3/3 – 3/10	Regional specialization and trade	5
3/15 – 3/17	No class – Spring break	
3/22 – 3/29	Regional labor markets and migration	6
4/10	No class – E-days	
4/5 – 4/12	Regional economic growth	7
4/14 – 4/19	Topics	TBA
4/21	Exam #2	
4/26 – 5/5	Student research presentations	
Finals week	Wrap-up activity during scheduled final exam period	