UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

CHILTON HALL, DENTON

PADM 5310
Seminar in Economic and Community Development

Course Outline
Summer 2014

Class Meeting: Wednesday 2.00 – 5.50PM @ ENV190
Instructor: Simon A. Andrew, Ph.D.
E-mail: sandrew@unt.edu
Telephone: 940-565-4982
Fax: 940-565-4466
Office: Chilton Hall 204A
Office Hours: Wednesday 12.00 – 1.30PM, or by appointment
Course Description

This course examines the basic role of governance as an instrument of economic and community development in the United States. The course focuses on the meaning and application of development primarily on sub-national development with particular reference to cities and towns. The course first introduces many of the important themes and issues pertaining to development. Second, it offers theories and conceptual frameworks for thinking about the processes of development. Topics include economic development tools, politics of development, development financing, and development organizations.

Course Objectives

- To familiarize students with the history, theories, and practices of local economic development planning;
- To expose students to a broad range of economic development policy options and current topics in economic development;
- To help students become familiar with the language, tasks, and experience of economic development practice;
- To highlight to students the many methods of financing local economic development activities;
- To examine the shortcomings and dilemmas of economic development planning.

Course Assignments and Grading

Course Essay
Essay 25 %

Examination
Final Exam 25 %

Group Project
Final project 25 %
Group Presentation 10 %

Participation
Individual Reflections (on weekly readings) 15 %

Grades Breakdown

A = 100–90%  B = 89–80%  C = 79–70%  D = 69–60%  F = 59% below

Course Policies

1. I expect students to attend all course sessions, complete all required readings prior to class time, participate in class discussions and complete the written assignments and examinations. All assignments must be turned in on time. No work will be accepted after 6 pm on Wednesday, July 23 2014

2. If you are using a computer or other technology to take notes, this is fine. It is not ok, however, to surf the web, text others, or read or send emails during class time. If you choose to ignore this, plan to retake the class at a later date as it will result in one-full
level grade point deduction from your final course grade (i.e., your overall grade in the course will move from an A to a B, a B to a C, etc.).

Essay

Each student is required to submit one essay. The essay must be chosen from a list of discussion questions (see below). If a student has a preference for a particular set of questions related to the topic covers during a discussion, I am happy to accommodate. Your essays should be typed, 2.0 spaced, using standard margins and 12-font in a proportional font such as New Times Roman. Note that you are limited to write a total of 2,500 words. Please do not tinkering with font size and margins.

A general guideline on how to write an essay can be found in websites such as http://essayinfo.com/ To get you start thinking about an essay, I suggest reading around the topic and the recommended readings. You should not limit your reading to only those listed in the course outline. An acceptable essay must go beyond mere description of factual information, and will integrate materials from various sources and perspectives, including class readings and your own assessments. In other words, don’t just list descriptive or factual information on the topic. Your essay will be graded on the quality of the arguments, the organization of the essay, adequate use of existing literature, grammar, and spelling.

Examination

The Final Exam will be given on July 23, 2014. The exam will require students to synthesize and analytically reflect upon the course readings and discussion. The Exam will be comprised of essay and short answer, and definitional questions. The final exam will be accumulative; all of the materials from the semester will be pertinent and applicable to the final exam questions.

Group Project

A three-person group will be formed as soon as possible for the purpose of analyzing, reporting, and presenting a case study. The project will involve original research and field work for the preparation of a report on the economic and community development efforts (see list below). No one will be allowed to study the city where she/he works.

The final draft of the project should be approximately 25 pages in length excluding reference section, appendices etc. and written in proper form (double-spaced types, 1" margins, no larger than 12 point font, citations).

Group Presentation

Group presentation should not be more than 15 minutes. A major goal of your presentation is to make it interesting and informative to the class using creativity whenever possible. Your oral presentation should include illustrations, easy to read visual aids, and provide information about the purpose, scope, and operation of the project you are examining. The audience should learn a great deal about how the project addresses economic and community development issues.
List of Counties

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<th>Group 1</th>
<th>Group 2</th>
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<td>Bastrop County</td>
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<td>Williamson County</td>
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<th>Group 4</th>
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<td>Chambers County</td>
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Participation

Individual reflection (total of 5). The discussion should assume that each class member is familiar with the reading assignments (hence the individual weekly reflection). The reflection should be based on the list of questions presented in the course outline. Based on your reading for that week, your individual reflection should not be more than 2 pages (single-spaced). The reflection should be submitted to me in class.

Policy on Disability Accommodation

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA); and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during office hours before the 12th class day of regular semesters.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE)

Students are strongly encouraged to complete the Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) survey. This short survey will be made available on-line at the end of the semester. You can access the evaluations from the MyUNT portal at https://my.unt.edu or go directly to the SETE at https://sete.unt.edu/. Use the same log-in information (EUID and password) used to log into my.unt.edu.
## Course Outline (tentative)

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Week 2</th>
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- **Week 1:**
  - June 4: Course Overview
    - Topic 1: What is Economic Development?
    - Topic 2: Is development a problem that needs to be solved?

- **Week 2:**
  - Topic 4: Limitations of Economic Development Strategies

- **Week 3:**
  - June 18: Topic 5: Politics of Development and the Creative Class
  - Topic 6: Economic Development through Tourism and Sport Facilities
  - Guest Lecture: TBA

- **Week 4:**
  - June 25: Topic 7: Disasters and Economic Development
  - Topic 8: Growth Machine, Business Development, and Entrepreneurial City
  - Guest Lecture: TBA

- **Week 5:**
  - Guest Lecture: TBA

- **Week 6:**
  - Guest Lecture: TBA

- **Week 7:**
  - July 16: Topic 11: Regional cooperation and special economic development districts
    - Group project due (Friday)
    - Essay due (Friday)

- **Week 8:**
  - July 23: Final Exam
Week 1

Topic 1: What is Economic Development?
Topic 2: Is development a problem that needs to be solved?


Week 2

Topic 3: Development Strategies and A Retrospective Look at Economic Development Efforts
Topic 4: Limitations of Economic Development Strategies


Discussion Question: Discuss the different approaches required to understand economic development policies and strategies? What purpose(s) do they serve?

Discussion question: What are the theoretical arguments for the failures or successes of economic development incentives?
Week 3

Topic 5: Politics of Development and the Creative Class
Topic 6: Economic Development through Tourism and Sport Facilities


Discussion question: To what extent can the creative class contribute to local economic development?

Discussion questions: Are state and local government subsidies of professional sports and facilities justified? Why or why not?

Week 4

Topic 7: Disasters and Economic Development
Topic 8: Growth Machine, Business Development, and Entrepreneurial City


Other readings TBA
Discussion Question: Discuss the argument whether disasters can contribute to economic growth.

Discussion Question: Can small towns determine their own economic development destiny? Can we regard them as an entrepreneurial city? What role does city branding play in building a healthy local economy?

Week 5


Discussion questions: What are the main differences between Sections 4A and 4B of the Economic Development Sales Tax in Texas? Why do some localities adopt them while others do not?

Week 6


Discussion questions: How do local governments compete in attracting businesses to their communities? Who benefits from the interlocal competition and who will be the losers?

Week 7

Topic 11: Regional cooperation and special economic development districts


“City, County, Cooperative and Regional Efforts” pp. 180 – 197

“Other Economic Development Initiatives“ pp. 205-232

**Discussion questions:** What are the various approaches to economic development initiatives at the regional level? Discuss whether cities’ involvement in regional level initiatives can produce economic benefits to local governments?