

Syllabus
Urban Studies 301
Urban Spatial Systems
Spring Semester 2005

Professor: Dr. William M. Bowen
Class: Wednesdays, 6-9:50PM
Office hours: by appointment
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Course Description: This course focuses upon the evolution and changing form of the metropolitan region, the linkages among centers and sub-centers of population and economic activity, and the relationships of the components of metropolitan areas to the regional systems of which they are a part.

Major questions addressed include:

1. What determines the location pattern of urban places and urban regions within nations and geographical regions?
2. What is meant by a system of cities/metropolitan areas/regions across space?
3. What are the relationships of cities/metropolitan areas/regions one to another?
4. What is a hierarchy of cities?
5. What determines resource and commodity flows among economic regions?
6. What determines the characteristics and spatial distribution of economic and social spaces within urban areas?
7. What is the role of market forces in shaping the urban landscape?
8. What is the importance of these market forces?
9. Do market forces always result in the “highest and best use” of urban space?
10. What are the public tools for shaping and reshaping urban space?

Text:

John P. Blair (1995) *Local Economic Development: Analysis and Practice* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Course Method:

The course consists of lectures on aspects of urban spatial systems, a class project, examinations, and class discussion.

Students are expected to: prepare for and attend all classes, participate actively in discussions, ask clarifying questions, be prepared at all times to answer questions in class about the readings.

The project should be neatly typed using a word processor. Since project write-ups serve the goal of sharpening communication skills required to competently use the knowledge and information in this class, students are advised to pay attention to completeness, consistency and clarity. Grading is based upon soundness of analytical reasoning, effectiveness of interpretation, and communication of results.

Students are advised to prepare for class sessions by reading text assignments and identifying topics that need clarification in class. Please feel free to raise questions to ensure that you thoroughly understand and are able to apply concepts and techniques addressed in class, as appropriate.

CLASS POLICIES**Extra Credit**

There is no “extra credit” in this class. No extra homework, reports, exam re-writes, or any such “bail me out at the end of the semester so I can get the grade I want” opportunities. Please do not bother asking.

Missed exams

Only in cases of extreme and documented circumstances or documented illness will make-up exams be given. You must make these arrangements in advance of the exam. This is your responsibility: I will not seek you out to take a make-up exam. The make up will vary in form, content, and length from that given in class. Except in rare circumstances, students will earn a score of zero on missed exams.

Late assignments and incompletes:

Unless extenuating circumstances require otherwise and the instructor agrees beforehand to accept a late assignment, late work will not be accepted. Unless arranged in advance, you must be present in class to turn in your class project.

A grade of “Incomplete” will not, as a rule, be assigned at the end of class.

Student projects:

Students must complete a class project addressing issues in the changing spatial structure of urban areas; each project will be a group-effort by four or five students. A one-page project proposal must be submitted by February 9th and approved by the instructor. Students within each group will evaluate each other's contribution. Each group will make a presentation of their project during one of the two last weeks of the course.

Expectations on written work:

Spell-check and proofread everything you hand in (these are not the same things). Critically evaluate all work handed in for correctness, completeness, and clarity. Only work that is error free in all three of these categories will earn a grade of 'A' in this course.

All work must be handed in as a "hard copy." No e-mail, e-mail attachments, faxes, etc. will be accepted.

Cell phones and other classroom interruptions:

Please be sure to turn your cell phone off before entering the classroom. Also, please be sure to notify the instructor if you must leave class in the middle of the period. Each violation of these two rules will cost you ten points on your next test.

Attendance:

Attendance is expected. Examination material will be drawn from the lectures and discussions, as well as from the course readings; copies of lecture notes other than those handed out in class will not be provided. As a rule, make up exams will not be offered.

Attendance: It is strongly recommended that you attend every class in its entirety, for the following reasons:

- Arriving on time allows you to ask questions and participate in the discussion;
- Arriving on time allows you to hear the lecture;
- Attending class provides you with an additional presentation of the material;
- Exam material will be drawn from the text and lecture material, and all lecture material does not originate from the text;
- Common problems and issues relating to course material and homework will be discussed;
- You are responsible for changes to this syllabus announced in class.

Grades:

First exam 25%, final exam 30%, class project 25%, class presentation of group project 10%, class attendance and participation 10%.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Misconduct

Any form of academic misconduct will potentially earn an immediate grade of **F** for the course. In addition, your name will be forwarded to the Academic Misconduct Review Committee, for a hearing concerning your suspension from the University. You should familiarize yourself with the various forms of academic misconduct in section 3.1.2 of the CSU Student Handbook, available at http://www.csuohio.edu:80/student-life/student_handbook/

When dealing with homework or assignments completed in a lab setting, students often find it difficult to distinguish between “helping out” a fellow student, or “working together” on a project and academic misconduct. These guidelines may be helpful:

- Never share any of your written or electronic materials with another student. This includes your homeworks, data, tables, files, etc. This is academic misconduct.
- Work only at your own computer. Do not sit in front of a classmate’s computer and “take control” by using the mouse, typing on the keyboard, etc. By doing so, you are actually doing the work that your classmate will hand in and take credit for. This is academic misconduct.
- Write independently. When assignments are graded, sentences that are duplicated, or even highly similar, in more than one assignment are blatantly obvious. Writing up your answers without consultation avoids this situation. Handing in an assignment containing verbatim passages from another student’s work is academic misconduct.
- Reference your information sources. When you use a piece of information in your write up that you learned from another source (for example, your text book), that source must be referenced. Information taken verbatim must be quoted (to give the original author credit) and information that is paraphrased must be referenced. Failing to reference your sources is academic misconduct.

All the work that you hand in must represent your own independent and unique work. It should be distinct from that of every other student in the class. If you have questions about this, please ask – it is best to resolve these issues in advance.

The Grade of “Incomplete”

In accordance with university policy:

“The grade of Incomplete (I) is given when the work in a course has been generally passing, but when some specifically required task has not been completed through no fault of the student (Cleveland State Student Handbook, http://www.csuohio.edu:80/student-life/student_handbook/ Section 3.1.5).”

To be clear, an Incomplete is not a way of avoiding a bad grade on your record, or lightening your academic workload after having missed the last drop date. An Incomplete will be granted only in those cases that fit the above guidelines.

Important Registration Information

- Check the CSU Registrar’s website for the last date for dropping this course: <http://www.csuohio.edu/registrar/calendar.html> .
- Check with the Urban College’s Student Services office (687-3884) to see how dropping a course might impact your financial aid, assistantship, or scholarship.

Cancellation of Class Due to Weather

Class will not be cancelled due to weather unless the university is closed. CSU determines if evening classes will be held by 2pm daily. If CSU is open, class will proceed as scheduled, including any exams or deadlines that are scheduled for that class.

Students with Special Needs

Anyone anticipating the need for special accommodations to take exams, complete assignments, or otherwise fully participate in this class must identify himself or herself to the instructor as soon as possible.

Affirmative Action

Cleveland State University is committed to social justice: the university does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin.

The instructor fully concurs with that commitment and expects to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Personal attacks of any form will not be tolerated.

Tentative Schedule

- January 19: Introduction of Urban Spatial Systems
- January 26: Preface
Chapter 1: Economic Development and Market Logic
- February 2: Chapter 2: Three Fundamental and Recurring Issues
- February 9: Chapter 3: Business Location, Expansion and Retention
(project proposal due)
- February 16: Chapter 4: Market Areas and Economic Development Strategies
- February 23: Chapter 5: Understanding Economic Structure
- March 2: Chapter 6: Regional Growth and Development
- March 9: Exam
- March 16: Spring Break: No Class
- March 23: Chapter 7: Additional Tools and Perspectives on Economic
Growth
Chapter 8: Issues in Economic Development Practice
- March 30: Chapter 9: Resource and Commodity Flows
- April 6: Chapter 10: Land Use
- April 13: Chapter 11: Housing and Neighborhood Development
- April 20: Chapter 12: Metropolitan Government and Finance
Chapter 13: Planning, Futures Studies, and Development Policy
- April 27: Class Project Presentations
- May 4: Class Project Presentations
- May 11: Final Exam