

SYLLABUS, Spring, 2018
UP 345: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

9:30-10:50 A.M. Tues/Thurs, Room 225, Temple Buell Hall

Instructor: Craig Rost rostcr@uiuc.edu Phone: 493-5773 (leave message)

Introduction: This is an upper-division course in urban economic development. The course is designed for planning, business, economics, architecture and engineering students with an interest in economic development. The purpose of the course is to provide an understanding of the economic development process and the role planning and public policy play in facilitating economic development, concentrating on the local level.

Content: The content of the course includes both theory and application. The course is based primarily on assigned readings, local examples, guest speakers and discussion. Generally, the early part of the class will discuss the history and current state of economic development planning, including some discussion of the regional environment and evolving trends and issues. Following this background, the course content will turn to specific policy tools and their use in successful economic development strategies. The role and effectiveness of government programs and the difficulty in attracting new development will be discussed in class, with local examples of successes and failures used to reinforce the effective use of these strategies. Financial tools and programs (TIF Districts and Enterprise Zones, for example) will be discussed, along with some principles of economic development finance and analysis. The latter part of the course will examine trends and current issues, such as economic recovery, sustainability and urban redevelopment.

Grading and Expectations: The course grading will be: Participation: 10%; Write-ups of the readings 30%; Mid Term Exam 30% and Final Exam 30%. The course is based primarily on the information in the readings (examples and discussion will reinforce this material), therefore reading and understanding the material is required for successful completion of the course. Each reading will have a write-up due on the date of discussion of that topic (as provided in the Syllabus). Each write-up will be approximately 2 pages, the format will be provided and discussed in class. The write-ups will be collected at the end of class when that topic is discussed, so they can be used for discussion and note taking. The write-ups should be organized in a journal (along with notes of the discussion in class). This journal will be the only rational way to study for the exams due to the amount of reading required. No late write-ups will be accepted for credit (that would defeat the purpose of reading before the discussion) – however each student will be allowed one “miss” without a grading penalty.

Attendance: I will take attendance at each class. The participation portion of the grade will be based on attendance and willingness to discuss and ask questions in class. Absences will only be excused if you notify me in advance that you cannot attend, or have a documented medical or family emergency. One unexcused absence will be allowed without a grading penalty. Students with attendance problems can see me or Alice Novak in the DURP office. The University Counseling Center <https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/> is available to any student that has a personal problem that affects his/her ability to attend class or succeed academically.

Mid Term and Final Exam: The exams will be short answer essay or short answer, intended to provoke thought and reflect understanding of the material covered in the course. The content of the exams will be discussed in class before the exam.

Readings: Assigned readings will be available as PDF files in the University Compass system or provided as handouts and web based material. The reading assignments or materials may change as alternatives become available.