

ECON 463—Regional Economics

Instructor

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Office Hours: On Campus or Canvas chat by appointment

Course Materials

The following materials are necessary to be successful in the course:

Textbook

***Urban and Regional Economics (2nd Edition)* by Philip McCann, Oxford Press, 2013, ISBN: 978-0199582006**

- We will use the textbook as our guide for scheduling and content throughout the semester. Keeping up with the reading will be important.

Course Websites

Canvas (<http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx>)

- Login using your Colorado State University eID and password
- Under *Courses*, select “2016SM-ECON-463-401: Regional Economics”
- This site will serve as our primary tool for coursework and classroom communication. Be sure to check this site often as all course changes will be communicated as “Announcements” in Canvas.
- Supplemental readings and other materials will be posted to Canvas as well.

Software

Microsoft Office (or similar software suite)

- Homework and exams will be submitted using Microsoft Word documents. We will also need Microsoft Excel for the final project near the end of the semester.
- Microsoft Office is free for currently enrolled Colorado State University students. To download, go to: <http://www.acns.colostate.edu/o365>. On the right side of this page will be *Installation Instructions* which will guide you through the download process.

Technological Requirements

Hardware

- A computer with at least 2 GB of RAM.
- A fast, reliable broadband internet connection (e.g. cable, DSL)
- Recommended computer monitor or laptop screen of 13-inches or larger for better visibility of course material
- Computer speakers or headphones to listen to recorded content.



- Enough space on your computer to install the required software and save your assignments.

Software (see [recommendations from CSU](#))

- Web browser (Firefox generally works well with CSU websites - [free download](#))
- [Canvas Blackboard Course](#) (Canvas [technical support](#))
- Adobe Acrobat Reader ([free download](#))
- Flash Player ([free download](#))
- Microsoft Office ([free download](#))

Prerequisites

- ECON 306—Intermediate Microeconomics
- MATH 141 or MATH 155 or MATH 160—Calculus I (or equivalent)

Course Description

This course is intended for students who have completed the principle and intermediate courses in economics. Regional economics is an applied field, bringing together insights from both micro and macroeconomics. The focus of this course will be on how geographic space can impact economic activity—essentially introducing space and location into previously learned basic models. To close the semester, we will use a simplified version of an input-output model to assess how certain policies may impact a regional economy.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should:

- Apply spatial concerns to micro and macroeconomic theory.
- Engage with a variety of location-production models.
- Understand how activities are distributed in space.
- Discuss the rationale behind firm clustering and dispersion.
- Describe how land rents are determined according to standard theory.
- Create, understand and analyze input-output models.
- Critically evaluate the conclusions of regional economists.

Course Weekly Structure

A “module” in the course will correspond to the same amount of material that would be covered in a single week of an in-person 16 week semester. Each module can be found in the *Modules* section on Canvas. Because this course is condensed to 8 weeks, you will be assigned two modules per week. Modules will be comprised of readings from the course texts, supplemental class notes, graded discussion questions, problem sets, instructions related to policy analyses to help you prepare for the exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content.

Coursework

There are 500 points available in the course and grades will be determined exclusively on a point-basis. There will be no extra credit in this course. All coursework can be divided into four categories: Journal Posts, Homework, Proctored Exams and the Final Project. Generally speaking, you will have an assignment due on Thursday and Sunday every week so plan your schedule accordingly.

Journal Posts

Questions posted to Canvas will be aimed at facilitating your understanding of reading materials as well as providing the basis for a post. The majority of these questions will focus on additional readings posted to Canvas as well as the concepts presented in the text.

The purpose of these posts is to gain a deeper understanding of the economic topics. Each post is worth 10 points. Students should demonstrate quality posting based on the following thread criteria:

- Demonstration of having read the material by volunteering answers to questions and seeking clarification of points in the readings
- Contribution of relevant examples that support and justify claims
- Sharing experiences when asked or when relevant
- Maintaining a positive attitude and professional courtesy
- Bringing unique thought, insight and depth to the topic at hand
- Using proper grammar, spelling, punctuation and citations where appropriate

Journal posts must be completed by 11:59 PM MST on Canvas to receive credit and only your highest 8 (out of 9) journal posts count towards your grade.

Homework

You will complete three homework problem sets over the course of the semester—each worth 40 points. These questions will be essay based and range from 8-10 questions over the material we have read for class.

Proctored Exams

There will be two exams over the course of the semester—each of which will be worth 100 points. These will be administered through Canvas and must be proctored (see Proctoring Policy below) and will be due by 11:59 pm MST on the day listed on the class schedule regardless of your exam start time. You will receive access to each exam by Monday the week that the exam is due. Between this time and the due date, you and your proctor can schedule to take the exam.

Final Project

At the end of the semester, you will be asked to write a short (5-7 pages) essay that employs the concepts learned in class. This paper will serve as an application of course material and should demonstrate significant understanding of the material. The assignment sheet will be distributed on Canvas.



The evaluation of the paper will be based on the following criteria:

- The ability to convey a theme or argument clearly and coherently.
- The ability to analyze critically and to synthesize the work of others.
- The ability to acquire and apply information from appropriate sources.
- Competence in standard written English (including proper use of syntax, grammar, punctuation and spelling as well as use of appropriate vocabulary, formatting, and references).

Grading Schedule

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Journal Posts | 8 @ 10 pts | = 80 pts (Note: Drop lowest) |
| Homework | 3 @ 40 pts | = 120 pts |
| Proctored Exams | 2 @ 100 pts | = 200 pts |
| Final Project | 1 @ 100 pts | <u>= 100 pts</u> |
| | | = 500 total pts possible |

Letter Grades

Each number below represents the minimum point threshold necessary to achieve the following letter grade:

| Points | Letter Grade | Points | Letter Grade |
|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| 465 | A | 385 | C+ |
| 450 | A- | 350 | C |
| 435 | B+ | 300 | D |
| 415 | B | 0 | F |
| 400 | B- | | |

These point thresholds are non-negotiable and no “bumps” will be awarded.

Proctoring Policy

This course requires proctored examinations. Proctors are individuals who agree to administer examinations following the guidelines provided by Colorado State University. Exams or passwords are mailed or emailed directly to your proctor, so contact your proctor prior to your exam day and time and schedule well in advance—no extensions will be given for a proctor coordination failure.

For Those In Fort Collins

You can take your exam:

1. **With me** at the Department of Economics. There is no cost for using this proctor. This option is only on selected days during the exam period.
2. At the **University Testing Center (UTC)** on-campus in Fort Collins, CO. There may be a cost for using the UTC. This option is only available M-F during regular business hours.



3. With **ProctorU** - an online proctoring service that uses a webcam and microphone. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There may be a cost for using ProctorU.

For Those Outside Fort Collins

You can take your exam:

1. At an accredited college or university testing center in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
2. With **ProctorU** (<http://www.proctoru.com/colostate/>) - an online proctoring service that uses a webcam and microphone. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using ProctorU.

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for the UTC, ProctorU, and a nationwide list of accredited college or university testing centers. If you are in a rural area or on a military base, you may need to be approved to use a person as a proctor and information is provided on Canvas for this approval process.

Expectations

This section outlines the expectations of both the student and instructor for the semester:

Communication

Because this course is online-only, communication is especially important. I will be available through the following means:

Email: I always respond promptly to email, this is probably the best way to reach me. All e-mail sent to me should contain the following: Course Name and Number, Your Name, Short Description of your question. I will respond to email within 12-18 hours, but usually within 2-4 hours. Also note that the same rules for online etiquette (as mentioned above) apply to content in an e-mail.

On campus office hours: Clark B 213, by appointment only

Announcements: Please verify your settings for receiving Canvas announcements. In most cases, all announcements made in Canvas will be displayed on Canvas itself and sent directly to your Colorado State University email address (unless you opt-out from this option). All course communication will be posted as a Canvas announcement so be sure to set up your settings appropriately.

Make-ups and Missing Assignments

Given the flexibility of the online system with due dates posted well in-advance, no makeup exams or homework assignments will be allowed except in very extreme, documented circumstances.

Online Etiquette

A majority of class time is spent sharing opinions and sharing information. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to communicate with courtesy and professionalism. Professional Courtesy includes respecting others' opinions, being courteous and respectful, and working together in the spirit of cooperation. All work and assignments will be graded with a consideration for both quality and professionalism.

Gradebook

If you would like to request a grade change, or a question concerning a particular assignment, these appeals should be made **in email** to me within one week after the grade has been posted. This appeal should include specific reasons you believe that grade you received does not accurately reflect your answer. I reserve the right to re-grade the entire exam or assignment, not just the questions or content under appeal.

Academic Integrity

We take academic integrity seriously. At minimum, academic integrity means that no one will use another's work as their own. The CSU writing center defines plagiarism this way:

"Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding credit be given where credit is due."

—Writing Guides: Understanding Plagiarism.

<http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/researchsources/understandingplagiarism>

Academic Dishonesty could result in expulsion from the university. Each instance of plagiarism, classroom cheating, and other types of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the principles published in the CSU General Catalog (see page seven, column two: <http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/front/policies.aspx>). The instructor reserves the right to assess penalties of zero grades on the assignment/exam or a failing grade in the course as appropriate.

Of course, academic integrity means more than just avoiding plagiarism and cheating. It also involves doing your own reading and studying. It includes class attendance, careful consideration of all class materials, and engagement with the class and your fellow students. Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Each exam and assignment you submit, you are implicitly signing and acknowledging that you have followed the CSU student honor pledge:

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

Accommodations and Tutoring Options

Those with need for alternative testing services or other accommodations, please visit RDS (<http://rds.colostate.edu>). Help with written assignments can be found at the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.colostate.edu>). All students are **highly** encouraged to take advantage of these extremely beneficial and costless resources.