APEC 5321  
Regional Economic Analysis  
Spring 2014  

Instructor:  
Elton Mykerezi  
218F Ruttan Hall Classroom Office Building  
1994 Buford Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
612-625-2749  
myker001@umn.edu  
Office Hours: T, Th 1:30-3:00 pm  
or by appointment  

Description:  
The course provides students with a theoretical and applied foundation for  
understanding and analyzing a wide range of issues in regional economics. Geographic  
distribution of economic activity, income & wealth, poverty & inequality, human capital,  
social fragmentation & discrimination are considered, as well as, the role of policy. The  
course provides working knowledge of input-output models for economic impact  
analysis and basic tools for empirical analysis.  

Topics:  
1) An introduction to Regional Economics  
2) Definitions of rural, economic trends in rural areas;  
3) Geographic distribution of poverty and inequality;  
4) Alternative goals of economic development;  
   a) Income growth  
   b) Efficiency  
   c) Equity and social justice  
   d) Sustainability  
5) Regional models of economic development, and economic impact analysis;  
6) The potential role of Federal, State, and Local government in regional economic  
development.  
7) Migration and Local Labor Markets  

Requirements:  
Students are expected to take an active role in the discussion of materials. Specific  
course requirements are:
1) In-class **mid-term** covering class and reading material. (25 percent of the final grade).

2) **Final exam.** This is a “No Surprises” exam. Each student provides potential questions for the final exam. A list of 10-15 potential questions is then circulated on the last week of class, based on student suggestions and instructor input. The final examination will be conducted in-class at the scheduled time. Three to four final exam questions are randomly chosen from the list of potential questions (no surprises). (35 percent of the final grade).

3) **Term Paper.** Students prepare an applied term paper on an issue related to any of the topics discussed in class. I suggest specific topic ideas and datasets to help make sure that a feasible project is selected. However, students can take on one of my proposed ideas or propose their own. Journal article-format, empirical papers are strongly encouraged, but theoretical papers or critical literature reviews are also acceptable. (40 percent of the final grade).

- The final draft of the paper will count for 30 percent of the final grade
- A presentation of preliminary work intended to provide the writer with feedback from the instructor and peers will count for 10 percent of the final grade.
- We work with STATA but no prior familiarity is needed; I teach all that is needed in class

Past paper examples have included: Impact of State gambling laws on poverty in rural areas; Do food stamps contribute to obesity; Impact of Tribal College location on Native American education, etc.

**Textbook and Reading Materials:**

The main text is an on-line collection of books hosted at WVU, which is available for free. All other reading materials are journal articles that can be downloaded for free from an on-campus IP address.

**Main Text:**
The Web Book of Regional Science
[http://www.rri.wvu.edu/regscweb.htm](http://www.rri.wvu.edu/regscweb.htm)

**Readings by Topic**

1-An introduction to Regional Economics

**An Introduction to Regional Economics** by Edgar M. Hoover and Frank Giarratani
Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5.
2-Definitions of rural, economic trends in rural areas

Measuring Rurality: Economic Research service
http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality/

What is rural?
http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality/WhatisRural/

Rural America At A Glance, 2007 and 2011 Editions By Lorin Kusmin, editor
http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib31/

3-Inequality and social justice in Rural America

Poverty, Inequality and Social Justice in Non metropolitan America by Don E. Albrecht
http://www.rri.wvu.edu/WebBook/Albrecht/contents.htm


Mykerezi E. and Mills BF, The impact of the Food Stamp Program on Food Insecurity

Labor Market Fragmentations: The Case of Labor Market Discrimination


4-Alternative Goals of Economic Development

a) Growth


b) Efficiency

Hedonic adaptation and the role of decision and experience utility in public policy


c) Equity (treated in more detail under 3)

d) Sustainability

**Key Concepts in Sustainable Development** William Grunkemeyer and Myra Moss
http://www.rri.wvu.edu/WebBook/Grunkemeyer-Moss/sustainable.htm#intro

5- **Regional models of economic development, and economic impact analysis**

Regional Impact Models  by William A. Schaffer

http://www.rri.wvu.edu/WebBook/Schaffer/index.html

6- **The potential role of Federal, State, and Local government in regional economic development**

An Introduction to State and Local Public Finance  by Thomas A. Garrett and John C. Leatherman (part 1)

http://www.rri.wvu.edu/WebBook/Garrett/contents.htm

7- **Migration and Local Labor Markets**

Stephan J. Goetz, Penn State University “Migration and Local Labor Markets”
http://www.rri.wvu.edu/WebBook/Goetz/contents.htm