

Instructor: Perry A. Burnett

Course Title: ECON 463 Regional Economics

Course Time: 10am – 10:50am MWF

Course Location: Natural Resources 109

ECON 463: Course Syllabus

Course Description:

The main objective of the course will introduce students to the field of Urban and Regional Economics. At its core, it is the study of economic activity in physical space and focuses on the location choices of both producers and consumers. The class will analyze why cities exist, their structural and organizational characteristics as well as the unique problems cities encounter. The students will also be introduced to regional economic modeling.

Contact Information:

Office Location: Clark C309G

Office Hours: M/W/F 11am-12pm or by appointment

Email: perry.burnett@colostate.edu (In subject reference Econ 463)

Textbook (Required):

Urban Economics by Arthur O'Sullivan 7th Edition McGraw-Hill

Academic Requirements:

There will be four section evaluations of student learning, journal summaries, a research paper, a presentation and a summary of peer papers. **NO MAKUP EXAMS** will be awarded without official documentation (Sanctioned University Event, Medical or Legal).

Evaluation of Learning	Date	Chapters/ Requirements	Points
EL #1	February 9	1,2	100
EL #2	March 2	3,4,5	100
EL #3	March 30	6,7	100
EL #4	April 17	TBA	100
Journal Summaries	April 24	10 Summaries	30
Research Paper	May 8	See Below	50
Presentation	TBA	See Below	15
Peer Summaries	Due Final Day (May 13)	See Below	20

Research Project:

The research project will consist of three parts: Journal Summaries, a Research Paper and a PowerPoint Presentation.

Choosing a Topic:

Students will choose a topic off the list. The research paper **MUST** be on the approved topic. An unapproved topic will receive a zero. Signups for topics will be March 11. Students will choose a number from a “hat” to determine who gets to choose their time slot first starting with the lowest number.

Journal Summaries:

Students will submit a total of 10 academic journal summaries (found on the Econ Lit database or JSTOR database) each worth 3 points. These summaries are due April 24. Summaries will be graded in tenths of points then rounded after all 10 summaries are added together. A 0.5 point will be rounded up to the next point; 0.4 will be rounded down. *The summaries must be typed and stapled to the front of the complete article (this includes references).* Do not use abstracts in summaries. A journal summary not in this format will be deducted points or receive a zero. Times New Roman 12 font. Students should turn in both a hard copy and electronic copy (emailed). An example is on RamCT.

The summaries must adhere to the following format:

- A. Reference and Description of Paper Intent (1 point)
A paragraph that describes what the authors are attempting in the paper.
- B. Description of Model and Data (1 point)
A paragraph that describes the method (model and estimation technique) the authors use.
- C. Significant Contributions (At least 4 contributions) (1 point)
These are to be in sentence format and bulleted with article page number in parenthesis.

Example Reference:

Ciccone, A. and Hall, R. 1996. Productivity and the Density of Economic Activity. *American Economic Review*, vol. 86, no. 1, pp. 54-70.

Research Paper:

This is a 2,500 word integration of the journal summaries in a single coherent paper of your chosen topic. **THIS IS NOT LISTING ALL THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU FOUND IN THE ARTICLES.** You will be graded on how well you communicate and explain your topic in light of the existing research from your journal summaries. Times New Roman 12 font double-spaced. A hard copy is due in class on May 8 at the beginning of class. Every 15 minutes from 10:15 on will lose 10 points. Each section will be assigned either Excellent/Good/Average/Below Average rating or a combination.

This paper will consist of the following:

- A. Introduction: (5 points)
Introduce your topic and motivate the reader. Your audience is your peers. Answer the question: “Why should I read this paper about this topic?”
- B. Body: (20 points)
Organize your journal summaries to clearly present what the existing research says about your topic. This section will be graded on how integrated

and clearly you communicate the contributions of the existing literature. **DO NOT LIST THEM.** A list will result in a zero in this section.

C. Research Questions. (10 points)

Construct Two(2) well developed research questions concerning future directions or foundations of your topic. Questions should reveal critical thinking skills.

D. Evaluate your topic (10 points):

Critically evaluate your topic. Give your opinions about the different aspects of your topic. Take a position regarding your topic and logically defend it using economic reasoning.

E. Conclusions and References: (5 points)

Briefly summarize the key points. Answer the question: "What should the reader remember about your topic?" Also, list your references.

Presentations:

Students are required to give a 12-14 minute Microsoft PowerPoint presentation about their topic and research paper. This presentation will be graded on quality and material. Students should introduce topic and present their findings in an integrated format. **DO NOT LIST CONCLUSIONS.** See the requirements for Research Paper for help. Signups for presentations will be announced a class in advance. Students will choose a number from a "hat" to determine who gets to choose their time slot first starting with the lowest number.

1. Introduction/Motivation of Topic (3 points): Excellent/Good/Average/Poor
"Why should we listen to your presentation?"
2. Contributions from Existing Literature (6 points): Excellent/Good/Average/Poor
"What does the literature say about your topic?"
3. Organization/Quality of Slides (3 Points): Excellent/Good/Average/Poor
"Are the slides well organized and of high quality?"
4. Quality of Presentation (3 points): Excellent/Good/Average/Poor
"Is the presenter obviously prepared, clear and energetic?"

Peer Summaries:

These are typed summary paragraphs of peer presentations. They should include the date, name of the presenter, title of presentation, a sentence about the topic and two (2) sentences about two specific contributions. One summary paragraph per peer presentation. A typed hard copy should be submitted on May 13. Times New Roman 12 font double-spaced. No late work or email attachments will be accepted.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

At times throughout the semester, I will award points for class attendance or other assignments that I will discuss at the time they are assigned. It is the student's responsibility to get these assignments and complete them on time.

Grade Distribution (Out of 515 points):

460 – Above: A

410 – 459: B

360 – 409: C

310 – 359: D

309 – Below: F

Plus grades may be awarded. No minus grades will be given.

Class Policies:

Attendance is expected.

Cheating: *Cheating will not be tolerated in any form.* Cheating includes copying, plagiarizing, bringing answers or unauthorized formulas/equations or any other method deemed inappropriate on an exam, on journal summaries, the research paper, presentation or on the summaries of peer presentations. If you have any doubt, ask the instructor. Students caught cheating will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and be reported to the university.

Student Conduct: Behavior that interferes with the learning of other students will result in expulsion from the class.

Cell phones: Cell phones should be turned off or set to vibrate upon entering the classroom.

All items turned in must be stapled.

The syllabus may be changed during the semester at the instructor's discretion. If a change occurs, an announcement will be made in class and a new syllabus will be posted on RamCT.

I, _____, have received, understand, and accept the policies in the syllabus for ECON 463 in the Spring Semester 2009 taught by Perry Burnett.

I, _____, accept full responsibility for my grade in this class. It is my responsibility to seek out help if I need it. I understand that the instructor wants me to succeed academically and is here to help me accomplish my academic goals for the course.

I, _____, therefore, will not expect the instructor to make special considerations for me at the end of the semester if I do not earn the grade that I had hoped.

Sign Name _____

Print Name _____

Date _____