

**ECON 461: Regional Economics**  
**Section 001 – CRN 85652**  
**Fall 2010**  
**Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm**  
**Room: B&E 428**

**Instructor: George R. Crowley**

**Office:** B&E 433

**Office Hours:** Tuesday-Thursday 2:15 pm – 4:00 pm, and by appointment

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

WVU Course Catalog Description: “Analysis of the regional economy’s spatial dimension, emphasizing interregional capital and labor mobility, the role of cities, objectives and issues of regional policy, lagging regions and Appalachia, growth poles, and regional growth and income distribution.”

This course will provide an introduction to the spatial distribution of economic activities. The first portion of the course will be devoted to the key theoretical models used in regional economics including theories of firm location, clustering, economic base models, input-output analysis, and factor mobility. The second portion of the course will be focused on practical application of quantitative models and policy implications.

After completing this course, the student will have an understanding of the theoretical foundations of regional economics as well as the quantitative methods available to analyze regions. The student will also gain hands-on experience with the tools of regional economics and real-world data.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

ECON 201 and 202.

Familiarity with econometrics and statistics, as well as an understanding of a spreadsheet program such as Excel is not required, but will prove useful.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

McCann, Philip. *Urban and Regional Economics*. Oxford University Press, 2001. (ISBN: 0198776454)

Edgar M. Hoover and Frank Giarratani. “An Introduction to Regional Economics.” 3rd edition, 1984. In *The Web Book of Regional Science*, ed., Scott Loveridge. Morgantown, WV: Regional Research Institute, West Virginia University, 1999.  
(Full link: <http://www.rri.wvu.edu/WebBook/Giarratani/main.htm>)

Other readings will be provided by the instructor either in class or via ecampus as appropriate.

## GRADING POLICY:

Students will be graded on the basis of two exams (a midterm and a final), a research paper, and homework/class participation. The assignment weighting scheme and grading scale are as follows:

Assignment Weights:	
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Research Paper	25%
Class Participation	15%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale:	
A	89.5 and up
B	79.5 – 89.49
C	69.5 – 79.49
D	59.5 – 69.49
F	below 59.49

These grading policies are *final* and nonnegotiable.

## ASSIGNMENTS:

### A. Class Participation and Homework

Throughout the semester, assignments, quizzes, and other in-class activities will be collected. Homework will also be periodically assigned. These assignments will count 15% towards the final course grade. Some of these assignments will later be included as part of the research paper. Students must be in class in order to receive credit for the in-class assignments. If a student is not in class at the time the assignment is collected, he or she will receive a zero for the assignment. Homework will be due at the *beginning* of class on the due date. Late homework will not be accepted. No make-up assignments will be given, but active participation in discussion and/or asking questions during class can partially offset missed assignments.

### B. Research Paper

Students are required to write a term paper for this course. The research paper will count 25% towards the final course grade. The paper will involve a regional analysis of a county in the United States using the tools and concepts discussed in class. A complete summary of the requirements and expectations for this assignment will be provided by the instructor early in the semester. Preliminary information on the paper (including the county chosen, data sources to be used, partner's name) will be due October 12 and the final draft of the paper is due at the *beginning* of class on the final day of class (December 9). Late submissions will be penalized one letter grade for each day late, with the first 'day late' starting immediately after the beginning of class on the due date. A hard copy of the paper is required, and no email submissions will be accepted.

Students may work alone or with *one* (and only one) partner for this assignment. If students choose to work together on the assignment, each must fill out a form (provided by the instructor) detailing which portions of the paper were completed by which student. Each individual student's grade will be weighted more heavily towards the portions he or she was primarily responsible for, but will also reflect the quality of the paper as a whole. Students who choose to work together on this assignment are solely responsible for dividing work, enforcing deadlines, etc. Papers will be graded primarily on content, but students should be sure their work is well organized and free of grammatical errors.

Papers must represent the student's own work. If another author's work is referenced, it must be cited properly. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in an irrecoverable 'zero' for the paper at a *minimum* and potentially an 'F' in the course.

### C. In Class Examinations

Two exams will be given during the semester, a midterm and a final. The final exam will not be cumulative. The midterm and final exams will each count 30% towards the final course grade. Exams will have a short answer/essay format and will consist of roughly 4-7 questions each. Points assigned to each question/part of question will be clearly indicated on the exam. The instructor will indicate what material is 'fair game' at least one week prior to the exam. Note that exam questions may cover any and all material covered in class *or* in the assigned reading.

No make-up exams will be given except in the most extraordinary circumstances. If a student must miss the midterm exam for a health or similarly severe reason, he or she must contact the instructor (at least by email) *before* the beginning of class on the exam day. It is the responsibility of the student to be in class on time with the proper materials each exam day. Late arrival for an exam is not cause for extra time. Failure to sit for the midterm exam will result in a 'zero' for that exam. Failure to sit for the final exam will result in an 'F' for the course. If a student must be absent from an exam, it is his or her responsibility to inform the instructor ahead of time so that arrangements may be made for the student to sit for the exam *early*.

Paper Due Dates
<b>Preliminaries:</b> Tuesday, October 12
<b>Final Paper Due:</b> Thursday, December 9

Exam Dates
<b>Midterm:</b> Thursday, October 7
<b>Final:</b> Friday, December 17 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is not required but is strongly encouraged. As noted above, exams will cover material presented in the lectures that may not be covered in the text. Further, in-class examples are likely an essential part of full understanding of the course content. Finally, points for class participation will be based on activities/discussion *in class* and thus can only be earned by attending. If you choose to miss class, it is strongly recommended that you get a copy of the notes from a classmate; no notes will be provided by the instructor.

**There will be no class on Tuesday November 2 (election day) or Tuesday and Thursday November 23 and November 24 (Thanksgiving break).**

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and can result in a failing grade, dismissal from class, and expulsion from the University. If I suspect you of cheating I will seek the appropriate punishment under the guidelines of the Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.arc.wvu.edu/rightsa.html>).

**STATEMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE:**

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me as soon as possible and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (phone: 293-6700; website: <http://www.wvu.edu/~socjust/disability/>).

**DAYS OF SPECIAL CONCERN:**

WVU recognizes the diversity of its students and the needs of those who wish to be absent from class to participate in Days of Special Concern, which are listed in the Schedule of Courses. You should notify me by email by the end of the second week of classes or prior to the first Day of Special Concern, whichever is earlier, regarding Day of Special Concern observances that will affect your attendance. I will make reasonable accommodations for tests that you may miss as a result of observing a Day of Special Concern.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

*The instructor reserves the right to modify—all changes will be announced in class.*

Assigned readings are abbreviated as follows: M: McCann, HG: Hoover and Giarratani, EC: Instructor provided reading available on ecampus.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assigned Reading</b>
<i>Week 1 (August 24 &amp; 26)</i>	Introduction, Nature of Regions	HG: Ch. 9.1, EC
<i>Week 2 (August 31 &amp; September 2)</i>	Appalachian Region, Review Production Theory	EC
<i>Week 3 (September 7 &amp; 9)</i>	Foundation Stones, Location Theory	HG: Ch. 1, M: Ch. 1, EC
<i>Week 4 (September 14 &amp; 16)</i>	Location Theory	M: Chs. 1-2, HG: Ch. 4, EC
<i>Week 5 (September 21 &amp; 23)</i>	Location Theory	M: Ch. 2, HG: Ch. 5, EC
<i>Week 6 (September 28 &amp; 30)</i>	Regional Growth, Export-Base Model	M: Chs. 6, 4, EC
<i>Week 7 (October 5 &amp; 7)</i>	Export-Base Model, Impact Analysis <b>Midterm Exam: October 7</b>	M: Ch. 4, EC
<i>Week 8 (October 12 &amp; 14)</i>	Location Quotients and Shift-Share Analysis Theory <b>Paper Preliminaries Due: October 12</b>	EC
<i>Week 9 (October 19 &amp; 21)</i>	Location Quotients and Shift-Share Analysis Practice, Regression Analysis	EC
<i>Week 10 (October 26 &amp; 28)</i>	Input-Output Models	M: Ch. 4, EC
<i>Week 11 (November 2 &amp; 4)</i>	Resource and Commodity Flows <b>No class: November 2</b>	M: Ch. 5, HG: Ch. 10, EC
<i>Week 12 (November 9 &amp; 11)</i>	Resource and Commodity Flows, Local Economic Development Theory and Policy	M: Chs. 5, 7, HG: Chs. 10, 12, EC
<i>Week 13 (November 16 &amp; 18)</i>	Local Economic Development	M: Ch. 7, HG: Ch. 12, EC
<i>Week 14 (November 23 &amp; 25)</i>	<b>No class: Thanksgiving break</b>	---
<i>Week 15 (November 30 &amp; December 2)</i>	Basics of CGE Modeling and Spatial Econometric Models	EC
<i>Week 16 (December 7 &amp; 9)</i>	Review/Catch-up <b>Paper Due: December 9</b>	---

Students are responsible for material covered both in class and in the assigned reading. Therefore, students are expected to complete reading of the assigned chapters *before* they are covered in class so that any questions may be addressed during the appropriate lecture.

**The Final Exam will be given on Friday, December 17 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, as per the University schedule.**