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# UAP 5104 – Urban & Regional Development Theory

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Fall 2005

Tuesdays 4:00 – 6.30 pm

Location: Alexandria: Architecture Center / Blacksburg: Durham 463

**Professor:** Heike Mayer  
**e-mail:** [heikem@vt.edu](mailto:heikem@vt.edu)

**Office Hours:**  
1021 Prince Street, Room 204  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
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**Web access to course material:**

<https://learn.vt.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Office hours by appointment

**Web Assistance/Help Desk:**

User Services (231-HELP) or <http://4help.vt.edu>

## **Course Description**

This course explores the literature on urban and regional development theories. We will examine the factors that contribute to the growth or decline of cities and regions. The readings focus on competing explanations of spatial economic patterns and development and draw from a variety of disciplines including economic geography, political science, economic sociology, and urban studies and planning. We will also consider the implications of each theory for the practice of planning as well as urban and regional analysis.

Applying each theory to contemporary urban and regional development patterns will be an important objective of the class. To illustrate development patterns and to apply the theories, students will conduct a “*regional audit*” for the NoVA/Washington D.C. and the Roanoke/Blacksburg regions.

## **Learning Objectives**

Through this course you will

- become familiar with the basic concepts and theories of urban and regional economic development.
- be able to apply urban and regional development theories to the practice of planning, in particular economic development.
- gain an understanding about emerging drivers of urban and regional growth or decline, and the challenges cities and regions face.
- understand the distinction between growth and development and the complex interrelationships between the economy, the environment, and social equity.

## **Required readings**

Malizia, E., & Feser, E. (1999). *Understanding local economic development*. New Brunswick: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. (In the syllabus this book is referred to as M&F)

Readings posted on Blackboard

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## Assignments

### **1. Participation**

My teaching philosophy is based on the understanding that as a teacher, I'm a facilitator of your learning. In return, I expect that you come prepared to each session, that you have read the material, that you contribute constructively to class discussions, and that you take ownership and responsibility of the assigned tasks.

### **2. Class facilitation (once during the semester)**

You will sign up to facilitate one class session. This will require you to lead the class discussion and to guide your colleagues in understanding the assigned readings. There are two parts to the assignment: an e-mail submission of a discussion guide on the day before the facilitation begins and the facilitation itself.

### **3. Reading & Idea Notes**

Prepare one page of reading notes and ideas (approximately 250 words) on each week's readings. These notes are due at 11 am on the day of the class on the Blackboard discussion board. These notes may be informal contributions of your thoughts, ideas, and questions on the readings. In the notes, you will also need to apply the readings to the case of the NoVa/Washington D.C. and Roanoke/Blacksburg regions.

### **4. Regional Audit**

Students – in groups – will collect background information for a regional audit of the economies of NoVA Washington D.C. and Roanoke/Blacksburg. The group has to involve a student from Alexandria and a student from Blacksburg. Each student will take on one region and prepare the data. The group as a whole will have to write a memo outlining and interpreting the findings. Groups will choose one of the following research areas: Demographics, Economy, Industrial Sectors, Labor, and Innovation. Students will present this information in written (as a professional memo of no more than 10 pages) and oral form. The presentations will take place during the weekend meeting. This task is subject to change depending on the class size in Blacksburg.

### **5. Research Paper: Application of Theory**

For this paper, each student will pick a theory and apply it to either the NoVA/Washington D.C. or the Roanoke/Blacksburg region. Detailed instructions will follow. Paper Length: 10 – 12 pages.

List of theories to choose from

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| - Economic base theory                    | - Industrial district theory         |
| - Regional growth theory                  | - Industrial cluster theory          |
| - Trade theory                            | - Entrepreneurship theory            |
| - Product cycle theory                    | - Creative class theory              |
| - New growth theory                       | - Innovation-based theories          |
| - Theories of concentration and diffusion | - High tech / biotech-based theories |
| - Theories of flexible production         | - New regionalism                    |

The paper presentations are scheduled for November 29, 2005.

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## Grading

<b>Participation</b> Class participation Facilitation Presentations	<b>20 %</b>
<b>Reading &amp; Idea Notes</b>	<b>20 %</b>
<b>Background case study</b>	<b>30 %</b>
<b>Research paper</b>	<b>30 %</b>

## Virginia Tech's Honor Pledge

I expect that all assignments in this class conform to Virginia Tech's Honor Pledge as well as to the usual academic standards. The pledge states that "I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment." This means that you will refrain from plagiarism and cheating or from any other form of receiving unauthorized assistance.

For more information, see: <http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

## Special Needs

Any student with special needs or circumstances should feel free to meet with me during office hours.

## Other Policies

### - **Reference & Writing Style**

All written assignments should be typed and double-spaced (the convention is to use 12 point font like Times Roman with a 1 inch margin on the sides). You should follow the reference style of the American Psychological Association. This reference style is the most common in urban planning/urban studies. It involves in-text citations with the last name and the year in parentheses, i.e. (Mayer, 2005, p. 12) and a reference list, sorted by last name (and then by year) at the end of the text. More information about APA is available here: <http://www.apastyle.org/>

### - **Due Dates & Late Assignments**

Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of the class period in which they are due. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you need special arrangements, please discuss them with me well in advance. Late assignments will receive substantially reduced credit.

### - **Draft Papers: if you want you can submit them to me in advance for feedback**

When writing your papers, please make sure that you pay attention to writing style, clarity, and grammar. Allow for enough time to edit your paper. If you want me to review your paper, you should turn in a draft at least two weeks prior to the due date. This will allow me to use a week to review it and to hand it back to you in time for more editing and writing.

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## Class Schedule for Fall 2005

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Projects</b>
Week 1	August 23, 2005	Introduction	
Week 2	August 30, 2005	Why study urban and regional economies?	
Week 3	September 6, 2005	What makes cities and regions grow?	
Week 4	September 13, 2005	What is driving NoVa and SW VA? <i>Guests: Wayne Strickland, John Provo &amp; Terry Holzheimer</i>	
Week 5	September 20, 2005	Regional growth theories, trade and product cycle	
Week 6	September 27, 2005 <i>Heike will teach from Blacksburg</i>	Theories of flexible production & industrial districts	
Week 7	October 4, 2005	Industry clusters	Discussion of Term Paper Topic & Outline
	<i>Oct. 8</i>	<i>Special meeting in Alexandria, Richmond or Harrisonburg</i>	Presentation of group projects
Week 8	October 11, 2005	<i>No class</i>	
Week 9	October 18	What is driving the “New Economy”? Entrepreneurship & Creativity	
Week 10	October 25, 2005	<i>No class (Heike in Kansas City)</i>	
Week 11	November 1, 2005	High tech regions	
Week 12	November 8, 2005	Regional governance	
Week 13	November 15, 2005	Is bigger always better?	
Week 14	November 22, 2005	<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	
Week 15	November 29, 2005	Final Presentations	Paper Presentation
Week 16	December 6, 2005	No class	Research paper due

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## **Bibliography for UAP 5104: Urban and Regional Development Theory**

Articles are posted on Blackboard in the section "Bibliography"

### **August 30, 2005      Why study urban and regional economies?**

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M&F Chapter 1,2

Bairoch, Paul Ch. 6, 9, 31

Glaeser, E. (1998). Are cities dying? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12(2), 139-160.

Ohmae, K. (1993). The rise of the region state. *Foreign Affairs*, 72(2), 78-87.

Fainstein, S. (2002). The changing world economy and urban restructuring. In S. Fainstein & S. Campbell (Eds.), *Readings in urban theory* (Second ed., pp. 110-128). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

### **September 6, 2005      What makes cities and regions grow? Concepts & Economic base theory**

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Feser, E. (1998). Enterprises, external economies, and economic development. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 12(3), 283-302.

M&F Chapter 3,4

North, D. (1975). Location theory and regional economic growth. In J. Friedmann & W. Alonso (Eds.), *Regional policy: readings in theory and applications*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

North, D. (1975). A reply. In J. Friedmann & W. Alonso (Eds.), *Regional policy: readings in theory and applications*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Tiebout, C. (1975). Exports and regional economic growth. In J. Friedmann & W. Alonso (Eds.), *Regional policy: readings in theory and applications*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Tiebout, C. (1975). Rejoinder. In J. Friedmann & W. Alonso (Eds.), *Regional policy: readings in theory and application*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Stevens, B., & Lahr, M. (1988). Regional economic multipliers: Definition, measurement, and application. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 2(1), 88-96.

#### ***Handy resources for your regional audit:***

- McLean, M., & Voytek, K. (1992). *Understanding your economy: Using analysis to guide local strategic planning*. Chicago, Illinois: Planners Press, American Planning Association.
  - Cortright, J., & Reamer, A. (1998). *Socioeconomic data for understanding your regional economy*: Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.
  - Familiarize yourself with: [www.econdata.net](http://www.econdata.net)
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## **September 13, 2005 What's driving the economies of NoVa and SW Virginia?**

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Mayer, H., Holzheimer, T., & Glidden, H. (2005). Fostering emerging technology sectors in Arlington County: An economic development strategy for knowledge creation and innovation. *Economic Development Journal*, 4(1).

Mayer, H. (2005). *The homeland security industry and its impact on the Arlington, Virginia, economy* (Issue Paper No. 7). Arlington County: Arlington Economic Development.

Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness. (2004). *An Industry Cluster Analysis for the NewVa Region of Virginia*. Fifth Planning District Regional Alliance. Retrieved August 7, 2005, from the World Wide Web: <http://www.rvarc.org/alliance/cluster2004.pdf>

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission. (2002). *Regional Economic Strategy*. 5th Planning District. Retrieved August 7, 2005, from the World Wide Web: <http://www.rvarc.org/alliance/strategy.pdf>

## **September 20, 2005 New growth theory, geographic theories, trade & product cycle**

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M&F Chapter 5, 6, 7, 8

Cortright, J. (2001, July). *New Growth Theory, Technology and Learning: A Practitioner's Guide*. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Retrieved August 7, 2005, from the World Wide Web: [http://www.impresaconsulting.com/cortright\\_ngt.pdf](http://www.impresaconsulting.com/cortright_ngt.pdf)

Wood, L. (2001). "From theory to implementation: an analysis of the Appalachian Regional Commission's growth center policy." *Environment and Planning A* 33: 551-565.

## **September 27, 2005 Theories of flexible production & industrial districts**

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M&F Chapter 10

Storper, M., & Christopherson, S. (1987). Flexible specialization and regional industrial agglomerations: The case of the U.S. motion picture industry. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 77(1), 104-117.

Harrison, B. (1992). Industrial districts: old wine in new bottles? *Regional Studies*, 26(5), 469-483.

Markusen, A. (1996). Sticky places in slippery space: a typology of industrial districts. *Economic Geography*, 72(3), 293-314.

Markusen, A. (1999). Fuzzy concepts, scanty evidence, policy distance: The case for rigour and policy relevance in critical regional studies. *Regional Studies*, 33(9), 868-884.

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## October 4, 2005      Industry Clusters

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Porter, M. (2000). Location, competition, and economic development: local clusters in a global economy. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 14(1), 15-34.

Austrian, Z. (2000). Cluster case studies: the marriage of quantitative and qualitative information for action. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 14(1), 97-110.

Martin, R., & Sunley, P. (2003). Deconstructing clusters: chaotic concept or policy panacea? *Journal of Economic Geography*, 3, 5-35.

Feser, E., & Luger, M. (2003). Cluster analysis as a mode of inquiry: Its use in science and technology policymaking in North Carolina. *European Planning Studies*, 11(1), 11-24.

### **Interesting links and studies:**

- Potomac Knowledge way studies (Read either the InfoComm or the New Economy study)  
<http://knowledgeway.org/voice/homepage.html>
- Cluster studies for Virginia (uses occupation analysis):  
<http://www.virginiaallies.org/research.asp>

## October 18, 2005      What is driving the “New Economy”? Entrepreneurship & Creativity

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M&F Chapter 9

Feldman, M. (2001). The entrepreneurial event revisited: Firm formation in a regional context. *Industrial and corporate change*, 10(4), 861-891.

Saxenian, A. (2002). Silicon Valley's new immigrant high-growth entrepreneurs. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 16(1), 20-31.

Audretsch & Feldman (1996) Knowledge spillovers and the geography of innovation and production in *American Economic Review* 86, 1996

Lee, S. Y., Florida, R., & Acs, Z. J. (2004). Creativity and entrepreneurship: A regional analysis of new firm formation. *Regional Studies*, 38(8), 879-891.

Florida, R. (2002). Bohemia and economic geography. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 2, 55-71.

### **Interesting links and studies:**

- Joe Cortright & Carol Coletta's study of young and restless in Portland, Richmond, Memphis, etc.: <http://www.restlessyoung.com/yar/>
  - Richard Florida's website: [www.creativeclass.org](http://www.creativeclass.org)
  - Progressive Policy Institute's New Economy Index:  
[http://www.ppionline.org/ppi\\_ka.cfm?knlgAreaID=107](http://www.ppionline.org/ppi_ka.cfm?knlgAreaID=107)  
(see State and Metropolitan New Economy Index)
  - Florida, R. L. (2002). *The rise of the creative class: and how it's transforming work, leisure, community and everyday life*. New York, NY: Basic Books.
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## November 1, 2005 High tech, biotech, nanotech regions

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Goldstein, H., & Luger, M. (1993). Theory and practice in high-tech economic development. In R. Bingham & R. Mier (Eds.), *Theories of local economic development: Perspectives from across the disciplines* (pp. 147-171). Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

Sternberg, R. (1996). Regional growth theories and high-tech regions. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 20(3), 518-539.

Bresnahan, T., Gambardella, A., & Saxenian, A. (2001). 'Old economy' inputs for 'new economy' outcomes: Cluster formation in the new Silicon Valleys. *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 10(4).

Mayer, H. (2005). Taking root in the Silicon Forest: The role of high technology firms as surrogate universities in Portland, Oregon. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 71(3), 318-333.

Cortright, J., & Mayer, H. (2002). *Signs of life: The growth of biotechnology centers in the U.S.* Washington DC: The Brookings Institution

### **Interesting links and studies:**

- Cortright, J., & Mayer, H. (2001). *High tech specialization: A comparison of high technology centers* (Survey Series). Washington D.C.: The Brookings Institution.  
<http://www.brookings.edu/es/urban/cortright/specialization.pdf>

## November 8, 2005 Regional governance

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Foster, K. (2001). *Regionalism on purpose*. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Kanter, R. M. (2000). Business coalitions as a force for regionalism. In B. Katz (Ed.), *Reflections on regionalism*. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution.

Henton, D. (2001). Lessons from Silicon Valley: governance in a global-city region. In A. J. Scott (Ed.), *Global city-regions: trends, theory, policy*. Oxford: Oxford Press.

Faludi, A. (2002). The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP): An overview. In A. Faludi (Ed.), *European spatial planning*. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Dunford, M. (1994). Winners and losers: The new map of economic inequality in the European Union. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 1(2), 95-114.

### **Interesting links and studies:**

- Alliance for Regional Stewardship: <http://www.regionalstewardship.org/>
  - Pastor Jr., M., Dreier, P., Grisby III, J. E., & López-Garza, M. (2000). *Regions that work: how cities and suburbs can grow together* (Vol. 6). Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
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## **November 15, 2005 Is bigger always better? The debate about growth versus development**

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M&F Chapter 11

Mayer, H., & Knox, P. (2005). *Slow Cities: Sustainable places in a fast world*. Unpublished draft.

Campbell, S. (1996). Green cities, growing cities, just cities? Urban planning and the contradictions of sustainable development. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 3, 296-312.

PolicyLink. (2002). *Promoting regional equity*. PolicyLink. Retrieved August 7, 2005, from the World Wide Web: <http://www.policylink.org/pdfs/RegionalEquityFraming.pdf>

### ***Interesting links and studies:***

- Slow Food & slow cities: <http://www.slowfood.com/>