PIA 2188 Economic Development Strategies and Practice

Wednesday, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  Class # 21298
Email contact: sabinad@pitt.edu  Room 3800
Office hours:  M 9-11; W 3-5, and by appointment

This course is an introductory course on local economic development. This course will encompass theory, policy, process and practice in state and local economic development.

Our focus will be largely in the North American urban context over the post World War II period, with international comparisons. We will also use examples from Pittsburgh in furthering our understanding of local economic development practice. We will find that there are different interpretations and meanings to economic development, both in theory and as practiced. The purpose of the course is to provide the student with a basic knowledge of the approaches to economic development in theory and practice, techniques and methods of analysis, and debates ongoing in the field.

Students are expected to have completed a basic economics course. (If you haven’t, please see the instructor.) Students are required to attend class, complete all readings, and complete all required assignments.

Requirements:

1. Readings: Students are expected to complete required readings before class meeting. This is not an option.
2. Class participation: This includes being prepared for class, completing the readings, and discussing readings and issues each week. In addition, each week, students will email the instructor one question related to the readings or topic for the week. These should be thoughtful and contribute to the class discussion. Please email the instructor your question by noon each Wednesday. We will also use these for group discussions in class.
3. Economic development policy assignments 1, 2, and 3 + class presentation (see below).
4. Final exam.
Learning Objectives:
1. To understand the theoretical underpinnings of local and regional economic development.
2. To develop some appropriate skills and techniques in economic development practice.
3. To be able to link policy and practice.
4. To evaluate economic development policies and/or practice.
5. To become conversant and a skilled writer about local and regional economic development.
6. To incorporate equity orientation in economic development practice.

Economic policy assignments: Students will study one economic development policy in depth during the term. You should choose a policy or set of policies that have been implemented long enough to have some understanding of its impacts. You will work on this throughout the term and prepare three assignments.

Your economic policy assignment will be structured as follows:
1. First assignment: Select and describe an economic development policy to study. You will produce an approximately 5-6 page paper (double spaced) about the economic development policy, its origins, its roots in theory, and why it was developed or passed. Who are the main supporters of the policy and why? What are its intended consequences? If it was an explicit federal or other local, state, regional or national government policy, please discuss the legislation as well. You are not limited to U.S. or North American policies. You may select a topic that we won’t get to until later in the term, e.g., TIFs, brownfields, clusters, gambling, etc. Due February 18 in class.
2. Second assignment: Describe, discuss and analyze the technical aspects of the policy. You may use specific examples to analyze how the policy is supposed to work. What are the equity implications of your policy? How has the policy been implemented and by whom? What have been the effects of the policy? Can you develop a timeline for the policy? If so, please do. Again, your paper should be about 5-6 pages. Due March 18 in class.
3. Third assignment: This brings together the first two assignments plus an evaluation of the policy. You may think of this as the “final paper” on your policy and should be 15-20 pages long. How has the policy been evaluated? What are the results? What are the differences? You will need to use the academic and practitioner literature to produce this evaluation. How would you evaluate it? Develop and present an evaluation framework for the policy, as well, using techniques from the class and from your policy analysis courses. Due April 15 in class.
4. Class presentation: Plan to present your work to the class on April 15th and 22nd.

Grading: Grades will be determined by the following:
1. Class participation (includes attendance, preparation for each class, contributions to discussions, evidence of completing readings, weekly questions): 20% of grade.
2. Economic policy assignment 1: 10% of grade
3. Economic policy assignment 2: 10% of grade
4. Economic policy assignment 3 and class presentation: 30% of grade
5. Final exam: 30% of grade

Grading will be based on the following: A level grades represent exceptional and outstanding work. B level grades represent satisfactory performance. Below B represents unsatisfactory achievement.

Readings:
Required:

Most articles are from journals and can be found on Courseweb or through the Pitt library system (both electronically and in paper form in Hillman or Posvar libraries). Other articles will be available in pdf form in Courseweb.

The amount of reading can be heavy, especially in the beginning of the course. Please note as you read through the syllabus to plan your time accordingly.

Journals of interest:
Cityscape
Economic Development Quarterly
Housing Policy Debate
Journal of Urban Affairs
Policy Studies Journal
Urban Studies

Economic Development and Cultural Change
Economic Development Review
Journal of the American Planning Association
Journal of Regional Science
Urban Affairs Review

Web Pages on Pittsburgh Economic Development and others:
Brookings Institution: www.brook.edu/dybdocroot/
National Council for Community and Economic Development: www.ncced.org
Carnegie Mellon Center for Economic Development: www.smartpolicy.org/
International Economic Development Council: www.iedconline.org/
Allegheny Conference for Community Development: www.accdpel.org/
City of Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority: www.ura.org/
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development:  www.inventpa.com/

For students with disabilities, please contact me (see above) and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890 or (412) 383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible. We will make reasonable accommodations for this course.

For all students: I acknowledge that I have read the syllabus and understand the requirements for this course. If I have any question about these, I will ask them.

Please email the instructor at sabinad@pitt.edu to confirm that you have read the statements above. Thank you in advance.
# PIA 2188: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRACTICE

## Weekly Schedule, Spring Term 2008

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 January</td>
<td>Class introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 January</td>
<td>What is economic development?</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 January</td>
<td>Theories of economic development</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 January</td>
<td>Economic development planning, policy, process and practice I</td>
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*Guest speaker: Carl Kurlander Visiting Distinguished Senior Lecturer at Pitt, co-founder of Steeltown Entertainment, and documentary filmmaker – My Tale of My Tale of Two Cities.*

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 February</td>
<td>Planning, policy, process and practice II</td>
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*Discuss economic development project and select case studies.*

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>11 February</td>
<td>Economic development planning, policy, process, and practice III</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>Economic development tools</td>
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*First assignment due in class.*

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>25 February</td>
<td>Economic base, clusters, networks and linkages</td>
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*Guest speaker: Ron Gaydos, Heritage Health Foundation, Inc., Braddock*

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>Brownfields and revitalization</td>
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*No class this week, Spring break 10-14 March*

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>18 March</td>
<td>Beyond industry studies</td>
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*Second assignment due in class.*

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<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>Gambling on economic development</td>
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<td>1 April</td>
<td>Evaluation research and practice</td>
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<td>8 April</td>
<td>Regional governance and economic development and course wrap up.</td>
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<td>15 April</td>
<td>Final presentations</td>
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*Third assignment: Economic development project due in class.*

*Final exam distributed in class.*
22 April

*Final exam due.*
14 January: What is economic development?
BLAKELY & BRADSHAW, Chapters 1 and 2.

21 January: Theories of economic development
BLAKELY & BRADSHAW, Chapter 3.

28 January: Economic development planning, policy, process and practice I
BLAKELY & BRADSHAW, Chapters 4, 6

4 February: Economic development planning, policy, process and practice II

11 February: Economic development planning, policy, process and practice III
Mon Valley Strategy Report. 2007. www.monvalleystrategy.com

18 February: Economic development tools
BLAKELY & BRADSHAW, Chapters 5, 11.

25 February: Economic base, clusters, networks, and linkages
BLAKELY, Chapters 8, 13

4 March: Brownfields revitalization and industrial development
Margaret Dewar and Sabina Deitrick, “The Role of CDCs in Brownfield Redevelopment,” Chapter 8 in Recycling the City: The Use and Reuse of Industrial Land. Cambridge, Mass.: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

18 March: Beyond industry studies

25 March: Gambling on economic development – the gambling industry

Recommended:
BLAKELY & BRADSHAW, Chapters 9-12.

1 April: Evaluation research and practice
8 April: Regional governance and economic development
   BLAKELY & BRADSHAW, Chapters 13-14
Paul Kantor, “Can Regionalism Save Poor Cities? Politics, Institutions, and Interests in Glasgow,”
   Movement,” Journal of the American Planning Association 68, no. 3 (Summer 2002): 267-278.

15 April: Course wrap up – student presentations

22 April: Last class – Final exams due.