

ECON 463 SYLLABUS, SPRING 2017

INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: John Ohakim

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Office Hours: By appointment (Skype ID: john.ohakim)

Term Start: January 17, 2017

Term End: May 12, 2017

Class website: <https://colostate.instructure.com/courses/46181>

- Login using your Colorado State University eID and password
- Under Course List, click “2017 SP-ECON-463-801: Regional Economics”.
- Note: all email correspondence will be through your CSU rams email address. If you prefer to use a different email address, you can change it by clicking **Account** > **Settings** > **+ Email Address**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended for students who have completed the principles and intermediate courses in economics. Regional economics is an applied field, bringing together insights from both micro and macroeconomics. The focus of this course will be on how geographic space can impact economic activity—essentially introducing space and location into previously learned basic models. To close the semester, we will use a simplified version of an input-output model to assess how certain policies may impact a regional economy.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

1. ECON 306—Intermediate Microeconomics
2. MATH 141 or MATH 155 or MATH 160—Calculus I (or equivalent)

COURSE GOALS

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Apply spatial concerns to micro and macroeconomic theory.
2. Engage with a variety of location-production models.
3. Understand how activities are distributed in space.
4. Discuss the rationale behind firm clustering and dispersion.
5. Describe how land rents are determined according to standard theory.
6. Create, understand and analyze input-output models.
7. Critically evaluate the conclusions of regional economists.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. Urban and Regional Economics, Philip McCann, Oxford Press, 2e, 2013, ISBN: 978-0199582006
This will serve as our textbook for the class. We will have weekly readings as well as required journal postings responding to readings from the text.
2. Canvas access through Colorado State University
The URL is <http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/login.aspx>. Since this class does not meet in person, much of the information for the course, including additional readings, will be provided through Canvas. You will need access to Canvas **at least 2-3 times per week** to participate in journal posts, assignments and access class materials.
3. Access to Microsoft Office or a similar software suite
Homework and Exams will be submitted using Microsoft Word. More details about this is provided below.
Towards the end of the semester we will also be using Microsoft Excel to analyze an Input-Output model.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

Supplemental readings and other materials will be provided in Canvas system, via the CSU Library electronic reserve, or by links to websites.

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

The technology requirements for this online course are listed below:

Hardware

- A Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and a fast, reliable broadband Internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL).
- Recommended computer monitor and laptop screen size be 13-inches or larger for optimum visibility of course material.
- Computer speakers or headphones to listen to recorded content.
- Enough space on your computer for 1) install the required and recommended software and, 2) save your course assignments.

Software (see [recommendations from CSU](#))

- Web browser (Firefox or Google Chrome generally works well with CSU websites - [free download](#))
- [Canvas Blackboard Course](#) (Canvas [technical support](#))
- Adobe Acrobat Reader ([free download](#))
- Flash Player ([free download](#))
- Microsoft Office ([free download](#))

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY AND DELIVERY

This course is delivered via distance education format using the CSU Canvas system. This format will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based resources. You will interact with the instructor and other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas. You will submit assignments in accordance with the course outline using Canvas.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

There will be 16 modules corresponding to the 16 weeks of the course (1 module per week). You should proceed through one module per week, which will be comprised of readings from the course texts, supplemental class notes, graded discussion questions, problem sets, instructions related to policy analyses to help you prepare for the exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions, as shown below:

Assignment*	Points per Assignment	Frequency	GRADE POINTS	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Homework	40	3	= 120	24.0%
Journal Postings	10	8	= 80	16.0%
Final Project	100	1	= 100	20.0%
Midterm Exam	100	1	=100	20.0%
Final Exam	100	1	= 100	20.0%
TOTAL			= 500	= 100%

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through RamCT Blackboard.

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

Grade	Percentage Grade	Equivalent Points	Indicates
A+	98-100	490-500	
A	92-97.99	460-489	Excellent
A-	90-91.99	450-459	
B+	88-89.99	440-449	
B	82-87.99	410-439	Above Average
B-	80-81.99	400-409	
C+	78-79.99	390-399	
C	70-77.99	350-389	Average
D	60-69	300-349	Below Average
F	0-59	Less than 300	Failure

There is +/- grading in this class.

LATE WORK AND EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

All assignments for the week must be completed by the due date unless an alternate due date has been previously approved or documentation has been provided for extreme circumstances (i.e., University excused absence, medical or family emergency). **Since you will have access to all assignments in advance, late work will only be accepted in the most extreme of circumstances.** It is your responsibility to communicate with me about extreme circumstances or questions concerning assignments and their due dates.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

A majority of class time is spent sharing opinions and sharing information. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to communicate with courtesy and professionalism. Professional Courtesy includes respecting others' opinions, being courteous and respectful, and working together in the spirit of cooperation. Sexist, heterosexist, and racist language will not be tolerated when communicating for this course. All work and assignments will be graded with a consideration for both quality and professionalism. For more on this please see [online etiquette](#).

GRADEBOOK

If you would like to request a grade change, or a question concerning a particular assignment, these appeals should be made **in email** to me within one week after the grade has been posted. This appeal should include specific reasons you believe that the grade you received does not accurately reflect your answer. I reserve the right to re-grade the entire exam or assignment, not just the questions or content under appeal.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity [Policies and Guiding Principles](#) as found in the General Catalog and the [Student Conduct Code](#).

At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

If you have any questions about what is permissible, please ask.

CSU HONOR PLEDGE

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in this course. *While you will not be required to affirm the honor pledge*, you are expected to affirm the following statement for each assignment:

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's [Practicing Academic Integrity](#).

EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUCTOR

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates listed in the Schedule. With that said, I take my role as your instructor very seriously, and, in fact, I care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience.

To that end, it is my commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. If, however, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times I have listed here, I will keep you informed of my progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as I can.

Email: I will respond promptly to e-mails. This is probably the best way to reach me. All e-mails sent to me should contain the following: Course Name and Number, Your Name, Short Description of your question. This will make it easier for me to sort through the issue and respond promptly. I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours.

Announcements: All announcements related to the class will be sent directly to your email address section that you have registered with CSU and posted on Canvas in the announcement section so check it frequently.

TURNING IN COMPLETED COURSEWORK

Projects, assignments, and coursework will be submitted online either through Canvas as electronic files, through the online course tools (journal postings), or through a proctor. Assignments will not be accepted by email. All assignments related to class must be submitted in the correct format in order to be graded.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Students must achieve a passing grade of D or above by completing all required examinations, participating in journal postings, and submitting both the homework and the final project.

CONTACT HOURS

Each week, a student will be expected to:

Activity	Contact hours per week
Use Canvas to get course information for the week	1.0
Read the assigned textbook chapters and other readings	2.0
Review class notes	3.0
Complete homework	1.5
Study for exams and work on writing assignments (the final project and journal postings)	1.5
TOTAL =	9.0

METHODS OF EVALUATION

PROCTORED EXAMS

There will be two exams over the course of the semester—each of which will be worth 100 points. These will be administered through Canvas and must be proctored (see proctoring policy below). Each exam will be due by 11:59 pm MST; please see the class schedule for more details. You will receive access to each exam on the Monday of the week that the exam is due. Between this time and the due date, you and your proctor can schedule a day and time to take the exam.

JOURNAL POSTS

Questions posted to Canvas will be aimed at facilitating your understanding of reading materials as well as providing the basis for a post. The majority of these questions will focus on additional readings posted to Canvas as well as the concepts presented in the text.

The purpose of these posts is to gain a practical understanding of the economic topics covered. Each post is worth 10 points. Students should demonstrate quality posting based on the following thread criteria:

- Demonstration of having read the material by volunteering answers to questions and seeking clarification of points in the readings
- Contribution of relevant examples that support and justify claims
- Sharing experiences when asked or when relevant
- Maintaining a positive attitude and professional courtesy
- Bringing unique thought, insight and depth to the topic at hand
- Using proper grammar, spelling, punctuation and citations where appropriate

Journal postings must be completed by 11:59 PM MST on Canvas to receive credit.

FINAL PROJECT

At the end of the semester, you will be asked to write a short (5-7 pages) essay that employs the concepts learned in class. This paper will serve as an application of course material and should demonstrate significant understanding of the material. The assignment instructions will be available on Canvas.

The evaluation of the paper will be based on the following criteria:

- a) The ability to convey a theme or argument clearly and coherently.
- b) The ability to analyze critically and to synthesize the work of others.
- c) The ability to acquire and apply information from appropriate sources.
- d) Competence in standard written English (including proper use of syntax, grammar, punctuation and spelling as well as use of appropriate vocabulary, formatting, and references).

HOMEWORK

You will complete three homework problems over the course of the semester—each worth 40 points. These questions will be essay based and range from 8-10 questions, covering the relevant class material.

PROCTORING POLICY

This course requires proctored examinations. Proctors are individuals who agree to administer examinations following the guidelines provided by Colorado State University. Exams or passwords are mailed or emailed directly to your proctor, so contact your proctor prior to your exam day and time.

Who can be my proctor?

If you are in Fort Collins, you can take your exam:

- At the [University Testing Center](#) (UTC) on campus in Fort Collins, CO. There may be a cost for using the UTC. This option is only available M-F during regular business hours.
- With [ProctorU](#), an online proctoring service that uses a webcam and microphone. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There may be a cost for using the basic ProctorU services if scheduled as “last minute.”

If you are outside Fort Collins, you can take your exam:

- At an accredited college or university testing center in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
- With ProctorU, an online proctoring service that uses a webcam and microphone. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There may be a cost for using ProctorU services if scheduled as “last minute.”

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for the UTC, ProctorU, and a nationwide list of accredited college or university testing centers. If you are in a rural area or on a military base, you may need to be approved to use a person as a proctor and information is provided on Canvas for this approval process.

Additional information about proctoring is available on Canvas.

The online portion of our course is open for student registration. If you need additional guidance, consult the student Get Started guide, especially the system requirements which list the recommended browsers.

RESOURCES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the student's responsibility to disclose any learning disabilities. Please contact the instructor if a special accommodation is required. To request accommodations, students should contact [Resources for Disabled Students](#) at (970) 491-6385. Documentation of disability is required and the RDS office will assist in this process.

TECHNICAL HELP

Canvas technical support

- <http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/student-resources.aspx>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

A variety of instructional support services, such as writing center, guidance on personal or educational issues, tutoring questions and library resources are available to the students. For more information about their services, visit their websites linked under "additional resources" on Canvas.