

CRD 140

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CRD 140, 4 units

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Office Hours MW 10–11 am, T 4:30 –5:00 and RF by appointment

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Winter 2002

CRD 140 -- Dynamics of Regional Development

Course objectives

This course examines the development of cities, regions and industries from a political economic perspective. My goal is to encourage you to think about the operation of capitalist economies in a global perspective and to highlight some of the critical forces shaping the contemporary economy. The course goal is to provide you with insights into some of the business and economic headlines that you read in the newspaper every day. Further, for those of you who plan to be change agents in your communities, it is important to understand the economic forces structuring the world within which you live and act.

It is not sufficient to learn only from the contemporary situation. History also has important lessons. It is my intention to examine certain political economic trends through the use of both contemporary and historical examples. The history of capitalism shows that no single actor or small group of actors control the economy, not even the most powerful businesspersons who are usually its greatest beneficiaries. Having said that, it is also clear that economic power is differentially distributed in society. Moreover, those with economic power have significant clout in politics. And yet, history is a chaotic process in which social, political, and economic actors are constantly operating, dealing, finagling, building, destroying, winning, and losing. The groups involved in these struggles are not only the elites. Unions, environmental groups, organizations pushing for workplace justice, and anti-globalization groups also affect these outcomes. It is always possible to shift the terms of debate and to bring new actors into the equation. For example, even as corporations have become globalized so have other organizations seeking to impact their practices. In contrast to most observers, I believe globalization is no longer an issue, it is quite simply a fact of life -- the debate is about how it will be shaped.

This course concentrates on two significant issues: the development of regional economies and globalization. One fact I would like you to keep in mind the entire quarter is that all of the articles in this class are written by persons with their own perspectives and agendas. This is not wrong, it is simply a fact. For me, one objective will be to teach you to think more critically and understand why some things are happening.



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Required reading – see syllabus

Readings are an essential part of the course and will be discussed during class. They are a necessary background for discussion. Class participation is important and students are expected to be prepared to discuss readings in class. I will call on you by name.

The one book you might choose to purchase is *Urban Fortunes* by John Logan and Harvey Molotch (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988). We will read 100 pages of it. I did not make it a required book, but copies might be available in the bookstore and it is certainly available for purchase online. I have also put two copies on reserve in the library.

The remaining readings (with the exception of the Logan and Molotch book and those available on websites) are available in the Shields Library Copy Center. Ask for the readings for CRD 140 taught by Martin Kenney.



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Course requirements

The course grade will be based upon the following:

Participation --10%

Midterm-- 30%

Term paper -- 60%

Midterm: The midterm examination is in class and takes the form of essays and perhaps some short answer questions. It covers the reading and the lectures.

Term paper: The task is to take a corporation and trace its evolution. The crucial feature is for you to examine how it has changed its production, R &D, and headquarters location through time. In effect, you are doing an economic, social, and geographical history of the company. You should try to answer why it changed locations, did it globalize, is it located in a cluster, the implications of its relocation to the communities that lost the investments and those that gained the investment. Try to tie in our readings to the changes in the corporation. Samples of excellent past papers are available in the library.

The objective of the paper is to provide you with a deeper understanding of how firms evolve, the effect of the community on the firm, and the effect of firm on the communities dependent on the firm. All students are required to submit the name of the company on **Wednesday, January 16, 2002**. I will then

discuss the feasibility of your choices with you. If possible choose a company with which you are familiar or in which you have some interest. The earlier you begin work on the paper, the more insightful and interesting the paper is.

The term paper must be typewritten, double-spaced. A style sheet will be handed-out later in the quarter.

During the last couple weeks of classes, all students make a 5-minute presentation on the history of their company. These presentations are not graded. Often, students bring examples of the products of their company.

Very Important : Failure to make this presentation will result in a full grade deduction on your final paper.

Participation: Roll is not taken, however the instructor notes excessive absences. Failing grades have been assigned for the 10% participation portion of your grade. Even 10 percent is a substantial portion of your grade, it can have an effect upon the final grade. One way I measure participation is through the questions I ask during class.



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