Course Objectives: This is a course in regional economics and economic geography. The course combines traditional lecture with class discussions, student presentations and computer lab exercises. We will cover international topics such as globalization and global public goods, international trade, international migration, and domestic topics (mainly from the U.S.) that include industrial location, regional economic development, local and regional public goods, regional housing market, and state and local public finance. The course will put a strong emphasis on public policy issues surrounding regional economics and economic geography.

Specific objectives are to:

1. Study regions and problems facing regional economies.
2. Learn the theories and methods of regional economics and economic geography.
3. Study the determinants of regional economic growth and local development.
4. Give students hands-on experience using regional economic data.
5. Explore public policy responses to regional economic issues.

Required Books:

Hoover, E.M. and F. Giarratani. 1999. An Introduction to Regional Economics. This is a free web book available from the Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University: http://www.rri.wvu.edu/WebBook/Giarratani/contents.htm (“H&G”)


**WebCT:** There is a class web site available through the University WebCT (Blackboard Learning System). To access the class page through WebCT, go to https://webct.unr.edu/webct/ and login using your UNR NetID for the username and your NetID password for the password. You should be able to see this course in the course list after you login. I’ll put course related material (Powerpoint slides, assignments, announcements, interesting articles, etc.) on the web site so you should check this site regularly.

**Reading Assignments:** These will be provided to students on the class web site (WebCT) or as handouts during class.

**Background and Reference Texts:**


**Grading:** The course grade is based on class participation (5%), two homework assignments (7.5% each), a policy paper (25%), a midterm exam (25%) and a take-home final exam (30%). Attendance to all class sessions is mandatory.

**Late Assignments and Missed Exams:** Students are expected to complete the assignments by the announced due dates. Failure to do so will result in zero credit for that assignment. There will be no make-up exams without prior approval except under extremely unusual circumstances.

**Policy Essay:** The objective here is to provide students with a basic research experience on the public policy aspect of a regional economics questions in a world region, country or a sub-region within a country. More information on the
policy essay will be provided during the course. The writing of such an essay normally includes the following four steps:

**Brainstorming:** Come up with three policy ideas that interest you the most. You can discuss these with me during my office hours. You will then choose one of these ideas as a research project for this semester.

**Proposal:** Write a one-page proposal explaining your policy question. You should explain why you chose that specific question and why it is of policy interest.

**Outline:** Combine your proposal from the previous stage with a detailed outline that includes a preliminary list of references.

**Presentation:** Present your essay to the class for comments. The draft should be distributed in class one week before the presentation.

**Special Class Sessions:** I plan to bring guest speaker(s) to complement our regular class sessions.

**Class Courtesy:** Late arrival should be an exception. When necessary sit on entering side; do not disturb class. Early departure should be an exception – only in an emergency or with prior consultation. Early preparation for departure – please don’t. Talking – with everyone or with no one.

**Students with Disability:** If you have a disability and will be requiring assistance, please contact me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

**Academic Integrity:** Honesty and personal integrity are key facets of the University of Nevada community. The issue of academic integrity is taken very seriously at the University and College of Business Administration. Since the majority of students take pride in total academic integrity, it is hoped that you, as a student, will take action to influence the practice of integrity in academic community. I understand that students feel pressure to perform well in their classes, and I will do everything that I can to ensure that you have the resources necessary to succeed. However, cheating on exams and course assignments will not be tolerated, and students who fail to comply with the University’s honor code (www.unr.edu/stsv/acdispol.html, www.unr.edu/stsv/nsop/dishones.htm) will be subject to the maximum university penalties. Please visit the university website if you are unfamiliar with the actions which constitute academic dishonesty.
Course Outline:

1. **Introduction: Regions**

   H&G, Chapter 1

   - What is a region?
   - What is a regional economy?
   - What is economic geography? What is regional economics?

2. **New Regional Economics**

   H&G, Chapters 2-8
   Krugman, Chapters 1 and 2

   - Comparative advantage
   - Location theory
   - Spatial competition
   - Scale economies and externalities

3. **Topic: Regional Growth and Development**

   Easterly, Parts 1 and 2
   H&G, Chapter 11
   Krugman, Chapter 3
   Saxenian, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2, (also 4,6 and 7 if time permits)

   - Neoclassical growth theory
   - Case studies of growth (world regions)
   - State and local economic development and growth (the U.S.)

4. **Topic: Economic Geography, Regions and Demography**

   Saxenian, Chapter 8, Appendix B.

   - World and regional population, and demography
   - Population aging
   - Migration (international and intranational)
   - Political economy of migration

5. **Topic: Economic Geography, Regions and Government**

   Easterly, Chapters 11 and 12
   H&G, Chapter 12

   - Role of government in economy
   - Regional and global public goods
   - State and local public finance (the U.S.)
   - Fiscal Decentralization (the U.S. and international)
Additional Readings:
(This is a tentative list, some could be skipped and more could be added depending on time constraints)

1. Introduction: Regions


2. New Regional Economics


3. Topic: Regional Growth and Development


4. Topic: Economic Geography, Regions and Demography


5. Topic: Economic Geography, Regions and Government

