

Economics 406-01: Local Economic Development
Adlai E. Stevenson Hall 434 (STV 434)
Tuesday (6:00 PM to 8:50 PM)

Instructor:

Dr. Bibek Adhikari

Contact Information: Stevenson Hall 426J; badhik1@ilstu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM;

Other times by appointment only.

- Encourage you to meet via [Zoom](#) during office hours, just email me by the start of the office hour.

Course Website: <https://reggienet.illinoisstate.edu/>

Course Description: In this course, we will use economic theory and applied econometrics to understand and evaluate the needs, challenges, effectiveness, and intended as well as unintended consequences of local economic development (LED) programs. We will discuss what we mean by LED programs, why they are implemented, and their impacts on outcomes such as quality and quantity of jobs, financial security, access to affordable housing, and the improvement of the overall standard of living.

Required Readings:

John Blair and Michael Carroll. “*Local Economic Development - Analysis, Practices, and Globalization,*” 2nd Edition, Sage Publications, ISBN: 978-1412964838.

[Click here to access free e-book via ISU Library.](#)

Dina Pomeranz, “*Impact Evaluation Methods in Public Economics: A Brief Introduction to Randomized Evaluations and Comparison with Other Methods,*” Public Finance Review, 2017.

In addition to the textbooks, there will be several other readings, all of which will be available through the course page in Reggienet. These readings form a larger part of the required reading for the course. Some of the readings will be required, while others will be reference material. It is your responsibility to follow my announcements and do the readings. Not keeping up to date on readings will negatively affect your ability to achieve the student learning outcomes and negatively affect your grade.

Program Outcomes: This course has the following program outcomes

- Explain key economic concepts and describe how they can be used to understand the form, function, and application of major local economic development strategies
- Use concepts from economics and applied econometrics to critically analyze the impact of local economic development strategies
- Search, review, write, and present published research in local economic development

Contacting the Professor: If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to email me, as I will respond to your message within 24 hours. You can also ask for help during our regular office hours.

Grading Scale: 90% and above corresponds to A; 80-89.9% corresponds to B; 70-79.9% corresponds to C; 60-69.9% corresponds to D; 59.9% or less corresponds to F.

Note that I do not round grades up if you are close to a cut-off or otherwise tweak grades (e.g., apply a curve). I prefer not to add subjectivity into the process as this is not fair, especially since research suggests that this kind of grade rounding is more likely to be biased against minorities or women. Please do not ask me to do this.

Course Grading: The grades will be assigned as follows. More information about the assignments will be provided in the class.

- Exams: 40%
- Article presentations: 10%
- Homework assignments: 10%
- Final project: 30%
- Attendance and participation: 10%

Exams: There will be two exams, each worth 20% of the grade. More details will be provided during the semester.

Article Presentation: Each student will choose one article to present from one of the topics listed below.

- Affordable Housing and Related Programs
- Enterprise Zones and Related Programs
- Tax Credit to Individuals or Families/Universal Basic Income
- Targeted Subsidies or Assistance
- Temporary Jobs and Jobs Training Programs
- Sports and Local Economies

Homework Assignment: Students will form a group of two and each group will write a 2-page summary of the article being discussed that week.

Final Project: A group of two students will review the literature on one of the federal or state programs serving low-income individuals/households. They will then reflect on the strengths/weaknesses of the program and then briefly describe how they would implement a similar program at the local level.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory. If you miss a class, you are responsible for all materials covered during that time and for any announcements of homework assignments or changes in the course syllabus. You need to make arrangements with me in advance if you will be missing class due to participation in a Sanctioned University Activity, fulfillment of a religious obligation, exercise of a bereavement leave, or another university-recognized excused absence. I usually follow

the rule below to grade your overall class participation and meeting minimum expectation usually translates to a letter grade of B.

Does Not Meet Expectations

- The student is rude, disruptive, distracting; does not bring handouts or books in the class
- The student is physically present but mentally elsewhere; doesn't contribute to the conversation; has the book/notes but is not taking notes; playing with cell phone

Meets Minimum Expectations

- The student is present and has the book; is taking notes and paying attention; contributes at least once to class discussion; or participates through hand-raising, taking notes, emails questions

Exceeds Expectations

- The student arrives prepared for class; participates multiple times in class discussion; is responsive to participation and engaged in contributions and comments made by others; contributions are thoughtful and provoke additional comments from others; does not dominate conversation; listens carefully and responds thoughtfully to comments made by others.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is expected in all classroom endeavors. Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student's placement of his or her name on any academic exercise shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own thought, effort, and study. Students who have questions regarding issues of academic dishonesty should refer to the Code of Student Conduct, B1 (Academic Integrity), which outlines unacceptable behavior in academic matters.

Accommodations: Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit the StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu. It is the student's responsibility to present the document approved and signed by Student Access and Accommodation Services to the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Note: I reserve the right to change the terms, content and dates stated in this syllabus at any time. Should there be any changes, the instructor will announce details in class and/or ReggieNet.

COVID-19 Policies: We are still in a state of emergency. It is important to begin from that premise because the pandemic will fundamentally shape what the semester looks like, how we inhabit the class, and how we relate to each other and the course material.

- All students are expected to follow the guidance provided by the University regarding COVID-19 precautions, especially wearing a mask during class.

- If you are sick, particularly with any symptoms of COVID-19, do not come to class. I will work with you to make sure you can learn the material you missed because of an illness.
- ECO 101 is designated as a face-to-face class and will be held in that format unless the University changes course modalities. Students are not able to attend class via Zoom. If you miss an extended amount of time because of illness, please contact me to discuss options.
- If the University goes online or hybrid, you will be required to complete your exams through Proctortrack software.