

# URP 584: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Winter 2024

Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:30 - 10:00 am, 2210 Art & Arch Bldg.

Instructor: Prof. Scott Campbell (sdcamp@umich.edu)

This is an introduction to urban & regional economic development and planning. The course has two interrelated themes: the dynamics of urban growth and decline, and planning interventions. We face the contemporary restructuring of local and regional economies, accelerated technological change (and a preoccupation with innovation), growing economic internationalization, the decline of manufacturing employment, the blurring of public and private planning, and the conflicts between economic, social and ecological interests. We use case studies to contrast past and future models of local economies, such as high-tech regions, Detroit and other shrinking cities, booming fracking towns, tourist cities, stadium deals, gentrification, the role of anchor institutions, arts-driven neighborhood development.

*Prerequisites:* Graduate standing or permission of instructor. As an introductory course (and the only URP course on economic development), the emphasis is on major themes, political debates, urban economic history, the dynamics of local economies, and case studies. Though a basic course in micro-economics (such as URP509) would be useful as background, this course does not focus on quantitative economic methods.

We welcome students from other disciplines. In past years, students from Public Policy, SEAS, Social Work, Public Health, Architecture, Business and Civil Engineering have taken the course.

*Course syllabus:* <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sdcamp/urp584/> (google: sdcamp urp584)

## *Broader Themes of the Course:*

causes of growth and decline in cities & regions  
Comparing strategies for promoting economic development (tax subsidies, job training, infrastructure development, marketing, etc.).  
the limits of planning intervention in a mixed capitalist setting  
strategies to alleviate urban poverty  
Sustainable Development: Can one balance the interests of economic growth, environmental protection and social justice?  
Deindustrialization & restructuring  
Is manufacturing still a viable economic base?  
the rise of high-tech and the information city  
the globalization of production, trade & finance  
Should localities encourage/require firms to use locally responsible/loyal practices?  
local vs. state vs. national development strategies

public-private partnerships  
the varied economic foundations of cities (government cities, industrial cities, trade cities, global cities, military cities)  
top-down vs. bottom-up strategies to economic development (e.g., neighborhood vs. downtown).  
tourism as economic development  
economic demography and labor migration (e.g., do jobs follow people or vice versa?)  
the product & profit cycles of technological change  
public-private partnerships  
community benefits agreements (CBAs)  
How does economic development complicate a simple vision of city planners working in the public interest?  
Economic developers: intermediaries, advocates, entrepreneurs, planners or barkers?

## *Course Requirements:*

Course assignments include several short assignments, participation in several structured debates, and the preparation and presentation of a Local Economic Portrait (group project).