Community Economic Development Methods

Philip Watson
Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
University of Idaho

AgEcon 587
Fall 2013
Tue, Thu 12:30 – 1:45
McClure 214A

Overview:

This course is the second part to the Community Economic Development suite and builds on the Community Economic Development Theory course. This course focuses on the methods and tools employed by regional economists to analyze, describe, forecast, and make recommendations regarding a community's economy.

Objectives:

1. Understand how to apply regional economic methods for analysis in community economic development
2. Develop a toolbox for analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the community's economy.
3. Explore alternative processes for affecting change at the community level.
4. Improve the economic literacy of students interested in affecting change at the local level.

Text:
Community Economics: Linking Theory and Practice. Ron Shaffer, Steve Deller and Dave Marcouiller. Oxford: Blackwell Press 2004. Chapters 13 - 17

Community Economic Analysis: A How To Manual. Ronald Hustedde, Ron Shaffer, and Glen Pulver. North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, Ames, IA. Available as a PDF on the course Blackboard site.

Community Profile Project:
Students will produce a community profile that incorporates the tools and methods discussed in this class.

Grading:
There will be two exams in the class that will be worth 20% of your final grade each. The form of the exam will be short answer and problem solving. Students will be expected to apply the models, methods, and tools discussed in the class to problems they might encounter working with communities in the field of community economic development.

Students will also work on a semester long project that is designed by the student and agreed upon by the instructor. The project will apply many of the models, methods, and tools discussed in the class to a specific real world community of the students choosing. The community profile project will account for a total of 50% of your grade; with the midterm draft accounting for 20% and the final project accounting for 30%.

There will be periodic reading assignments on various topics throughout the semester. A one page response will be required for all reading assignments and those will represent 10% of your final grade.

Exam I:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Project (midterm draft):	20%
Project (final):	30%
Reading responses:	10%

Course Outline:

1) Connection to economic theory
2) Data
    a. What it is
    b. Where to get it
    c. Problems
    d. Imputation
3) Community profiling (Description and Diagnostics)
    a. Output, Jobs, Earnings and GDP
    b. Trend analysis
    c. Asset Mapping
    d. Exports
    e. Demand thresholds
    f. Shift-share analysis
    g. Location quotients
    h. Diversity Measures
    i. Distribution Measures (Gini Coefficients)
    j. Measuring competitive advantage
4) Input-Output and Social accounting
    a. Concepts of a general equilibrium
    b. Mathematical foundations
    c. Constructing accounts
        i. Getting data out of the SAM and asset mapping
    d. IMPLAN
    e. Manipulating a SAM
    f. Using a SAM for Economic Base Analysis
    g. Conducting an economic impact analysis
    h. Computable General Equilibrium (CGE)
5) Benefit-cost analysis
    a. Difference between impact analysis and benefit-cost analysis
    b. Feasibility analysis
    c. Social benefit-cost analysis
6) Non-market Valuation
    a. Hedonic Method
    b. Travel Cost Model
    c. Contingent Valuation