

## **PPD U242: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THEORY**

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This course will cover a selection of the more important topics in regional development, that are relevant to public policy and planning. Emphasis will be placed on developing a critical understanding of the various concepts. The material covered by the course is interdisciplinary and is related to the fields of economic development, public policy, geography, regional studies, technology studies, communications, and demography.

A set of required readings is listed for each topic, followed by some background references that can provide additional perspectives. Students are requested to complete the required readings before each class session. Additional references are listed in the syllabus to provide some background on each topic. The required readings attempt to introduce each topic as comprehensively as possible. In some cases, the original source of a concept or topic has been listed, even though it might seem dated. Sometimes, going back to the original source rather than relying on subsequent derivations can provide a better understanding. In cases where the original sources are used, indications of recent developments will be provided in class.

There are three parts to this course. The first part (*Innovation and Development*) will consider technological innovation and its impact on development. This part will provide a critical understanding of why technological innovation is a prerequisite for economic and social development, and how it influences regional change. The second part (*Convergence and Communication*) will consider how interregional disparities are affected by the process of economic development. The role of infrastructural development and of communication networks in that process will also be considered. The third part (*Metropolitan Evolution and Development*) will provide, first, an understanding of the interrelationships between metropolitan and national urban system change in the process of development. A second component will explore the relationship between metropolitan region structure and economic change. Examples on the process of economic development in Southern California and other metropolitan areas will be considered.