

Department: GEOG

Course No.: 288W

Title: Regional Development and Policy

Credits: 3

Contact: Alexander Vias

WQ: W

Catalog Copy: GEOG 288W. Regional Development and Policy. First semester. Three credits.

Prerequisite: GEOG 200 or consent of instructor; ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250.

A study of theory and practice in regional development and planning. Emphasis on evaluation of regional problems and public policies designed to resolve them, with a primary focus on the United States.

W Criteria: All minimum W course requirements are met and/or surpassed. All writing in the course is tied directly to course material, and instructions and feedback include directions and suggestions on how one writes as a professional geographer or social scientist.

There is considerable emphasis within the instructor's feedback on originality of thought, clarity of organization and effectiveness of expression, as well as attention to basic issues such as source referencing, grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The course meets at least the minimum requirements for W classes, usually exceeding these minima to some extent:

--A minimum of fifteen proofread and revised pages are completed by students.

--Students prepare a first submission version (hopefully not a first draft) exercise that is proofread, graded and returned for revision. This process is repeated a total of five times, involving, then, ten papers. For one of these exercises students also proofread and mark a fellow student's paper (as does the instructor as well).

--Enrollment is capped at 18 students.

--All writing in the course is tied directly to course content. One exercise requires students to present their views on defining "development; one requires a review and analysis of an important reading; and three interrelated, sequential exercises require students to analyze and discuss regional problems in a region of their choosing, explain the underlying causes of the problems, and outline public policies that have been or could be implemented to solve the problems.

--All exercises are proofread and marked extensively by the instructor and all must be returned in revised versions. One exercise is also proofread by a fellow student. Collegial and self-editing are stressed and encouraged. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor individually any time that written feedback on their written work seems unclear to them.

--As noted, revisions are required for all exercises.

--The first three exercises are each expected to be 2-3 pages in length. The final two exercises are expected to be 5 pages in length. Students must have a passing exercise grade to pass the course.