Innovation and Knowledge Transfer in City-Regions
POL 454H1S/POL 2394S
Winter, 2016

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Time: Wednesday, 2:00-4:00 pm
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Course Description:
This course surveys two of the key themes related to the process of innovation in a knowledge-based economy: the process by which new knowledge is generated and effectively transferred to those organizations with the potential to commercialize it; and secondly, the paradoxical relationship between knowledge creation and proximity in a modern global economy. Increasingly the global economy is seen as a knowledge-based one, hence the critical importance of understanding how new knowledge is generated and deployed in the form of new products and processes. At the same time, the more global the economy becomes, the greater the value of proximity, hence the fascination with how to foster the growth of new regional concentrations of knowledge and innovation, such as Silicon Valley. This course surveys the current state of knowledge concerning these processes and explores the implications of this understanding for public policies designed to stimulate knowledge transfer and promote the growth of dynamic and innovative city-regions.

Required Reading: Course Readings are available online through the Library and the Portal.

Course Evaluation:
Evaluation will consist of a research paper of 20-25 pages (70%) for graduates; and an essay proposal (10%) and research paper of 15 to 20 pages (60%) for undergraduates. Seminar participation and presentations will be worth 30% of the grade for all students. Essay proposals are due in class on February 10 for undergraduates. Essays are due at the end of the term. A penalty of 1% per week day will be deducted for late essays and proposals.

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Topics:

1. Introduction to the course and discussion of outlines

2. Innovation and Local Economic Development


*Pike, Andy, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose and John Tomaney, 2006, *Local and Regional Development*, pp. 96-113.


Philip Cooke et al. Eds. *Handbook of Regional Innovation and Growth*


3. Innovation and the Firm


4. Tacit Knowledge, Open Innovation and Related Variety


Jacqueline Senker and Wendy Faulkner, “Networks, Tacit Knowledge and Innovation,” in Rod Coombs et al., eds, Technological Collaboration: The Dynamics of Cooperation in Industrial Innovation


Nonaka, Ikujiro and Hirotaka Takeuchi, The Knowledge-Creating Company: How Japanese Companies Create the Dynamics of Innovation

Nonaka, Ikujiro and David J. Teece, eds, 2000, Managing Industrial Knowledge: Creation, Transfer and Utilization

John Seely Brown and Paul Duguid, The Social Life of Information


5. Universities and Regional Economic Development

*Shiri Breznitz, The Fountain of Knowledge: The Role of Universities in Economic Development, pp. 16-40


Geiger, Roger and Creso M. Sá, Tapping the Riches of Science: Universities and the Promise of Economic Growth


Helen Thorp and Buck Goldstein, *Engines of Innovation: The Entrepreneurial University in the Twenty-first Century.*


6. Regional Innovation Systems / Clusters/ Learning Regions


Cooke, Philip et al., 2011, *Handbook of Regional Innovation and Growth*.


7. Path Dependence and Local/Regional Development


Fuchs, Gerhard and Philip Shapira, eds, 2005. *Rethinking Regional Innovation and Change: Path Dependency or Regional Breakthrough?*

**8. Cities and Innovation**


Storper, Michael, 2013, *Keys to the City*, Part I


Enrico Moretti, *The New Geography of Jobs*


9. Creativity and the Economic Geography of Talent


10. **Urban Governance for the Knowledge Economy**


*Safford, Sean, 2009. *Why the Garden Club Couldn’t Save Youngstown: The Transformation of the Rustbelt*, ch. 6*
*Pike, Andy, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose and John Tomaney, “Institutions: Government and Governance,” in *Local and Regional Development*, pp. 123-146.


Sellers, Jeffrey M. *Governing from Below: Urban Regions and the Global Economy*.

Savitch, H.V. and Paul Kantor, *Cities in the International Marketplace*.


### 11. Regional Resilience and Economic Development


12. Policy Implications


Florida, Richard, The Great Reset, Part I


