COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines regional development theories and policies from different spatial scales and from different perspectives (e.g., public and private decision making). The course examines different approaches to, and conceptions of, “the region” in development and planning. The primary focus is on the process by which regions as spatial economic entities develop and change, both quantitatively and qualitatively, over time. It examines three central questions: 1) how and why do regions grow (or decline); 2) what role does (or can) public policy play in shaping the course of regional development?; 3) how do public and private actors make decisions within the context of “the region”? 4) how can the study of regions help to inform our understanding of the three pillars of sustainability (social/cultural, economic and environmental). To address these questions, a broad body of literature on regional economic development theory and regional planning will be surveyed. While international in scope, emphasis is placed on trends and issues in North America and Europe.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To provide a critical understanding of key concepts related to regional development and regional planning particularly as they relate to the situation in Canada and developed world
- To develop and implement a survey method to used to acquire data relevant to shaping regional development policies
- To develop analytical techniques to study and investigate public and private decision within a regional geographic framework

COURSE TOPICS

Regional development theories and policies; economic development; regional planning and development; economic decision making, public sector decision making and policy making regarding regional development; research methods and data analysis at the regional scale.

SELECTED COURSE TEXTS & READINGS

Reading will consist of a series of peer reviewed journal articles, government reports and institutional reviews/analyses, and government issued data.