INSTRUCTOR:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will learn about regional planning in relation to metropolitan economies. The Denver and Washington D.C. metropolitan areas will serve as comparative cases, but we also will cover other regions to highlight the variety of regional planning policies and practices. Specifically, we will compare the planning and economic changes over several decades in both regions. The economic analysis portion will use various techniques, such as cluster, employment, and industry analysis on several decades of economic and employment data for both regions from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Census of Population and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The economic analysis portion will be contextualized through readings, activities, movies, lectures, and field trips that cover the concept, practice, challenges, and recent movements with regional planning.

Through the two-region comparison, students will learn how the economies of regions relate to land use, regulation, economic development strategies, sources of funding, transportation infrastructure, housing, and natural advantages, as well as how to access and use data sources and techniques for studying the economy of regions. While the Denver and Washington D.C. regions are arguably very different in terms of period of development, culture, climate, transit system, and industries, they are similar in central city population and redevelopment trends, and both regions are bounded to one side by a natural feature; the Rocky Mountains, and the Chesapeake Bay. The differences are also noteworthy and will aid in our understanding of differences in regional planning and economic growth in relation to state policies, geographic location, and local governance.

The course is suited for first and second year master students with at least one semester of course work in urban planning or public affairs. No prior economic coursework is required; economic principles and methods of analysis will be taught in class.