

**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
232 BRACKETT HALL**

Dr. Bruce Ransom: Professor
Patrick Tandoh-Offin: Graduate Research Assistant
Fall 2009

Time: See Schedule of Topics for Meeting Dates
Classroom: Strom Thurmond Institute, Small Conference Room
Office Location: 231C Brackett Hall and Strom Thurmond Institute
Office Hours: TTH, 10:30—12:15 pm & 2:00—3:15 pm

Phone: Dr. Ransom: 656-0214 or 656-1650
Mr. Patrick Tandoh-Offin: 656-0216
E-Mail: Dr. Ransom: bruce@strom.clemson.edu
Mr. Patrick Tandoh-Offin: ptandoh@clemson.edu

PO SC 305-6: CREATIVE INQUIRY: PEE DEE COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this Creative Inquiry project is to identify and analyze the political, social, demographic, and environmental factors for pursuing creative community and economic development policies that will enhance a sustainable future in the nine-county area (the counties of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg) known as the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. Students will explore the strengths and weaknesses of forces shaping county and regional growth patterns within the Pee Dee. The region is anchored by Myrtle Beach/Grand Strand and the Florence area and includes small towns and rural communities throughout the region. Students will conduct research and engage in analyses, including making policy recommendations, focused on issues related to community and economic development such as the environment, rural development, urbanization, patterns of growth and decline, tourism, education, health care, land use and sustainable growth, etc. Regional planning strategies are dependent on cooperative development of community and economic assets by public, private, and nonprofit sectors in the Pee Dee. Special emphasis will be devoted to exploring the nexus between county plans and policies and areawide planning and development. This course is the second in a series that selects students to work as an interdisciplinary Creative Inquiry team that researches and critically analyzes factors hindering and shaping community and economic development in the region.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The main objectives of the program for this second phase is help students to gain familiarity with what issues are considered in comprehensive plans drafted by various counties to guide their resource use and infrastructure development. Over the course of the semester, students will engage in the following activities:

- Engage in the analysis of regional county comprehensive plans;
- Determine the focus and emphases on economic and community development in county plans;
- Participate in trips to meet and talk to county officials and community leaders involved in the design of county development plans;
- Prepare reports and PowerPoint presentations of findings.

COURSE FORMAT AND MEETINGS: The Creative Inquiry team meets to discuss feedback from research assignments and activities from the previous meeting, and where necessary students will also discuss any assigned readings. Each meeting will also be used to discuss research assignments and other class activities before the next meeting. Each student is assigned or is responsible for two counties in the Pee Dee.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING: The following assignments for each of the meeting dates and the other activities together are the means to achieve the course objectives for the second phase and also for this semester.

Each of four written reports on research assignments will represent 15% of the final grade. A PowerPoint presentation and the final report will be worth 40% of the final grade for the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: *As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson’s vision of this institution as a “high seminary of learning.” Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.*

SUGGESTED READING: Proposed readings for the semester include:

1. Regional Development and Multilevel Governance - Michael Danson and Geoff Whittam
2. Planning for Jobs – Eric Damian Kelly and Barbara Becker

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

The class plans to meet up to about four times throughout the fall semester to review class exercises and assignments and experiences from the proposed field trips.

All dates are tentative pending reconciliation with student schedules for the fall semester

****Wednesday, August 26**

Introduction and planning for the semester including planning for field trips
Determination of commonalities and gaps in planning documents and studies
Reading assignment 1 and discussion of readings
Regional Development and Multilevel Governance: Michael Danson and Geoff Whittam
Assignment 1: *Due no later than 5:00pm on Friday, September 18*
Identify the predominant economic activities in the counties

September, 24 -30

First field trip to the Pee Dee Region tentatively scheduled for this week

****Wednesday, October 7**

Reading assignment 2 and discussion of readings
Planning for Jobs: Eric Damian Kelly and Barbara Becker
Assessment of the extent of follow up on recommendations in the plans
Class discussions also to focus on events from the first field trip
Assignment 2: *Due no later than 5:00pm on Thursday, October 15*
Identify the major agricultural activities and crops in the counties

October, 24 - 31

Second field trip to the Pee Dee Region tentatively scheduled for this week

****Wednesday, November 4**

Class discussions to focus on field trip experiences
Understanding the competitive advantage of the Pee Dee and its sub-regions
Assignment 3: *Due no later than 5:00pm on Friday, November 13*
Identify all the key community infrastructure, higher institutions of learning and vocational training in the counties

****Wednesday, December 2**

Review assignment 4
Class PowerPoint presentation and final report for semester

***** Final Reports due on Friday, December 4 by 12:00am *****

FINAL REPORTS

The class report and PowerPoint presentations will incorporate student experiences, interactions with county officials and information from the field trips.