

**University of Wyoming; College of Business  
Department of Economics**

**ECON 4730/5730  
Advanced Regional Analysis  
Fall 2024**

**Instructor:** Professor David Aadland

**Instructor's Office:** BU 361

**Instructor's Telephone:** Office #: 766-4931

**Instructor's Office Hours:** TR 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

**Instructor's Email:** [aadland@uwyo.edu](mailto:aadland@uwyo.edu)

**Instructor's Zoom Room:** <https://uwyo.zoom.us/my/daveaadland>

**Class Homepage:** <https://www.aadecon.com/classes/econ4730/>

**Course Description:** An advanced study of regional economic models. Emphasis is placed on quantitative analysis of regional growth and development. This course introduces students to regional economic models, analytical techniques, and relevant policy issues useful for analyzing regions and their economies. Throughout the course, the focus will be on applied research, which will provide students with useful skills and experience, especially those interested in data analytics or economic development work.

**Course Prerequisites:** ECON 3010 and 3020.

**Required Readings and Videos:**

- Davis, Craig H. (2014). *Regional Economic Analysis and Project Evaluation*. Vancouver: UBC Press. Chapters 1-2, 6, and 9.
- Harvard Growth Lab. (2023). A Growth Perspective on Wyoming. <https://growthlab.hks.harvard.edu/publications/growth-perspective-wyoming> pages (1-36, 71, 95-98)
- Joseph, C., Gunton, T., Knowler, D., & Broadbent, S. (2020). The Role of Cost-benefit Analysis and Economic Impact Analysis in Environmental Assessment: The Case for Reform. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*, 38(6), 491–501. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14615517.2020.1767954>
- Seven Quick Start Videos in IMPLAN <https://support.implan.com/hc/en-us/sections/360009070934-Quick-Start-Video-Guide>

## Course Requirements:

- Exam. There will be one in-class exam covering material from the readings and lectures. The exam will be a combination of multiple-choice and short essay questions.
- Case-Study Assignments. Each student is required to complete one assignment from each of the four case-study areas. The case-study assignments will be posted on our class website and WyoCourses page.
- Graduate Student Expectations. Each case-study assignment will have one additional question for graduate students.
- Group Presentations. Each group (~3 or 4 students) will be required to give an economic presentation of an applied Wyoming research project.

**Grading:** The exam, presentation, and case study assignments will be weighted as follows:

Examination	( 50 pts)	25%
Group Presentation	( 50 pts)	25%
Case Study Assignments	(100 pts)	50%
	-----	-----
	(200 pts)	100%

A score of 90% or above guarantees an A; a score between 80-89 guarantees and B; a score of 70-79 guarantees a score of C; etc.

### Academic Dishonesty Policy:

UNIREG 802, Revision 2, defines academic dishonesty as “an act attempted or performed which misrepresents one’s involvement in an academic task in any way, or permits another student to misrepresent the latter’s involvement by assisting the misrepresentation.” Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class; any instances will be referred to the university’s established procedure for judging such cases, with severe penalties as found appropriate. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to write any parts of your case study reports or group presentation is considered plagiarism and subject to UW’s academic dishonesty policy.

## **Course Outline (tentative schedule):**

Week 1. Syllabus & Review of Economic Concepts

Week 2. Review of Economics Concepts

Week 3. Economic Impact Methodology & IMPLAN

Week 4. Review and Exam

POSSIBLE CASE STUDIES (one per week for the remainder of the semester; guest and schedule subject to change)

### Local Economic Development

- Laramie Jubilee Days  
(Guest: Bailey Kirkland, CBEA Research Economist)
- Pilot Hill Recreation Area  
(Guest: Sarah Brown Mathews, Executive Director, Pilot Hill Inc.)
- Cheyenne LEADS  
(Guest: Betsey Hale, CEO Cheyenne LEADS)
- Casper Sports Ranch  
(Guest: Alex Specht, Associate Director, CBEA)

### Energy and Natural Resource Economics

- Rare Earth Elements  
(Guest: Paul Bonifas, Director of Business Development, Rare Element Resources Ltd.)
- Wyoming Nuclear Energy  
(Guest: Alex Gebben, CBEA Energy Economist)
- Cowboy Clean Fuels  
(Guest: Ryan Waddington, CEO and Co-Founder, Cowboy Clean Fuels)
- School of Energy Resources  
(Guest: Kara Fornstrom, Director, Center for Economic Research and Policy Analysis)

### University of Wyoming & Wyoming Workforce

- UW Financial Planning  
(Guest: Anne Alexander, CBEA Director of Outreach and Engagement)
- Wyoming Brain Drain  
(Guest: Lucas Lamby, Research Fellow, Harvard Growth Lab)

### State and Local Government Policy

- Local Economic Development Sales Tax  
(Guest: Kevin Kershnik, Executive Director, IDEA Inc.)
- Wyoming Tax Policy  
(Guest: Ashley Harpstreith, Director, WY Taxpayers Association)
- Wyoming Business Council  
(Guest: Sarah Fitzgerald, Chief Strategy Officer, WBC)
- Wyoming Innovation Partnership  
(Guest: Lauren Schoenfeld, Director, WIP)
- Cheyenne Municipal Water  
(Guest: Patrick Collins, Cheyenne Mayor)