

Problem Set 2

DUSP 11.481J, 1.284J, ESD.192J, Spring 2006

Due March 22, 2006 5:00pm

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Please answer one of the following three questions (Question No.1, Question No. 2, **or** Question No. 3). Answer all parts of the question you select.

1. Factor Mobility and Globalization

- a. Why are analysts concerned about recent trends in these two economic phenomena? Base your answer upon two or more of the required readings.
- b. Are the concerns of the analysts valid? Why or why not? Use examples from two or more of the required readings we have covered so far to support your position.
- c. What are the different implications for regions of these trends in developed and developing countries especially in light of recent outsourcing (or offshoring) from the United States?

2. Knowledge Transfer

- a. How would you define “knowledge transfer”? Provide an example of a case where knowledge transfer is helping/constraining regional economic growth. Base your answer upon two or more required readings.
- b. Using one or more required readings and drawing on examples raised in class, specify two or three policy interventions that could be implemented at a regional level to assist in knowledge transfer within a sector and/or among firms. Discuss some of the ways that policy makers and planners can intervene in the regional economy in order to facilitate knowledge transfer. Indicate what constraints may exist.

3. Supply Chains

- a. What role do analysts think supply chains play in the current regional (industrial) economic restructuring? In current regional (industrial growth)? Base your answer upon two or more of the required readings.
- b. Should supply chains enhance or diminish the competitiveness of a region (industry)? Use examples from two or more of the required readings we have covered so far to support your position.

You should write the evaluation in light of other literature in the field (using readings from any part of the required or suggested readings for this class covered so far). You are not expected to refer to readings not on the reading list, but if you do so, please provide a copy of the reading(s) to the instructors, so that we can quickly ascertain if your comparison is correct.

Write your answer as a complete essay, with an introduction, conclusion, and a list of references, focusing on one or more key issues. We will judge the paper based on good writing and on your ability to argue effectively about the issue you choose.

Please provide your name and the names of students with whom you worked. Each member of the group must do a fair share of the work. Each student must submit a separate answer representing individual thinking. Your answer should not exceed **seven** double-spaced pages, including references (with at least one-inch margins and no smaller font than 12 cpi). Again, refer to the "Suggestions for Writers" handout concerning common writing problems.

Note: Points will be deducted for any papers handed in late.