Biotechnology Ventures in DFW
Summer 2006

Each Monday, 4:00 pm, Starting May 15, 2006

A graduate-level course about biotechnology and commerce in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area

Professor Donald A. Hicks, whose research focuses on the development of successful clusters in the biotechnology industry, will be the instructor for this course. Professor Lynn A. Melton will have a supporting role.

Biotechnology Ventures in DFW will explore trends and dynamics in the United States and globally and address ways in which how may shape the prospects for an emerging bioscience and technology-intensive industry base in the DFW Metroplex. Special attention will be devoted to the potential for identifying commercial and technological strengths in the DFW regional economy that could lead DFW becoming a leading center of biotechnology activity. Course sessions will be organized around a series of “key questions,” each bearing on the emergence of a major bio-S&T “cluster.”

In a hurry? Go for non-degree (Biotech) admission! Bring a copy of your college transcript showing award of your undergraduate degree, pick up a paper application, get admitted, register, and pay your fees. We will be glad to have you on board. Regular Summer Admissions (online, see our web site) end approximately May 1, 2006

Students should register for SCI 5V06 Special Topics: Biotechnology Ventures in DFW, Monday 4:00 pm, Classes start May 15, 2006. The course is also cross-listed as POEC 7329. Two (2) in-class exams, a term paper, and discussion participation will be used to evaluate student performance. Students who wish to audit the course should contact the instructor for permission (dahicks@utdallas.edu).
Biotechnology Ventures in DFW
Key Questions

Following 2-3 introductory sessions by the instructor, subsequent sessions will be led by guest lecturers who have special competence and experience in a “Key Question” topic:

- What factors explain the origins and pattern of U.S. and global biotech industry emergence? Does “biotech” signal a “new industrial era”?

- What defines the structure and performance of the biotech sector? Is this sector likely to transform? If so how, why?

- Is the biotech sector “disruptive”? That is, does this sector have the potential to inflict substantial change in other sectors of the economy?

- The DFW region was not one of the regions that hosted early biotech industrial/commercial activity. What factors explain this? If this is a concern, how might it be addressed?

- What (if any) implications does the pharmaceutical industry have for biotech development?

- What role does the research university play in promoting or retarding the growth and development of the biotech industry?

- How does new bioscience knowledge create economic value? Are there factors that disrupt the transit of bioscience invention (discovery) to biotechnology commercialization (innovation)?

- What role to public policies – federal, state, or local – play in the shaping the emergence and development of new industries like biotech?

- Where does the financial capital come from to make biotech venturing possible?

- What are the prospects for a “convergence” of DFW’s industrial and technology assets and its bioscience activity?

- What are the prospects for a “next-generation” biotech sector transforming the today’s hospital-centric health care delivery system?

- What are other regions in the U.S. and abroad doing that DFW should study, learn from, and perhaps seek to emulate?