

Syllabus

Urban Economics: The Economics of Cities

Econ 4242-100

Summer 2015

Instructor: Dustin Frye

Office Location: Econ 307

Office Hours: MWF 9:30- 10:50 am and by appointment

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This is the best way to contact me outside of office hours. Please allow me 24 hours to respond.

Class Meeting Monday- Friday 11 am- 12:35 pm in Econ 119

Class Website: Desire2Learn

Course Description

This course explores the nature and development of urban areas, beginning with an examination of the theory of why cities grow and how individuals and firms choose their locations, before covering patterns of land use, suburbanization, transportation, education, crime, and housing and their influence the growth of cities.

Prerequisites

Economics Prerequisites ECON3070 and ECON 3818

Relevant math techniques and economic concepts will be briefly reviewed when necessary, but you are responsible for the math requirements of this course.

Required Textbook/Materials

Urban Economics, by O'Sullivan, 8th Edition, McGraw-Hill Irwin (The 7th edition also works). I recommend viewing the previous days notes and reading the relevant chapters in the textbook before each lecture.

Grading Structure¹

- Homework (10%)
- News Articles and Podcasts (5%)
- Journal Article Summaries (10%)
- Group Presentation (5%)
- Picture Project (20%)
- Midterm Exam (20%)
- Final Exam (20%)

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Your Score
95%-100%

Your Grade
A

Your Score
73%

Your Grade

Tentative Schedule

Introduction to Urban Economics (June 1)

O'Sullivan: Ch. 1

Glaeser, Edward L. "Are cities dying? The Journal of Economic Perspectives (1998): 139-160.

Market Forces in the Development of Cities (June 2-June 10)

1. Why Do Cities Exist?

O'Sullivan: Ch. 2

Quigley, John M. "Urban diversity and economic growth The Journal of Economic Perspectives (1998): 127-138.

2. Why Do Firms Cluster?

O'Sullivan: Ch. 3

Arzaghi, Mohammad, and J. Vernon Henderson. "Networking off madison avenue." The Review of Economic Studies 75.4 (2008): 1011-1038.

Redding, Stephen J., and Daniel M. Sturm. "Costs of Remoteness: Evidence from German Division and Reunification." American Economic Review 98.5 (2008): 1766-1777.

Ellison, Glenn, Edward L. Glaeser, and William R. Kerr. "What Causes Industry Agglomeration? Evidence from Coagglomeration Patterns." American Economic Review 100.3 (2010): 1195-1213.

3. City Size

O'Sullivan: Ch. 4

Au, Chun-Chung, and J. Vernon Henderson. "Are Chinese cities too small?" Review of Economic Studies 73.3 (2006): 545-576.

Rappaport, Jordan. "Moving to nice weather." Regional Science and Urban Economics 37.3 (2007): 375-398.

4. Urban Growth

O'Sullivan: Ch. 5

Henderson, J. Vernon, Adam Storeygard, and David N. Weil. "Measuring economic growth from outer space." American Economic Review 102.2 (2012): 994-1028.

Kline, Patrick, and Enrico Moretti. "Local Economic Development, Agglomeration Economies, and the Big Push: 100 Years of Evidence from the Tennessee Valley Authority." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 129.1 (2014): 275

Land Rent and Land Use Patterns (June 14 June 17)

1. Urban Land Rent

O'Sullivan: Ch. 6

Davis, Morris A., and Michael G. Palumbo. "The price of residential land in large US cities." *Journal of Urban Economics* 63.1 (2008): 352-384.

2. Urban Land Use

O'Sullivan: Ch. 7

Burchfield, Marcy, et al. "Causes of sprawl: A portrait from space." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2006): 587-633.

Glaeser, Edward L., et al. "Decentralized Employment and the Transformation of the American City [with Comments]" *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs* (2001): 163.

3. Neighborhood Choice

O'Sullivan: Ch. 8

DiPasquale, Denise, and Edward L. Glaeser. "Incentives and social capital: are homeowners better citizens?" *Journal of Urban Economics* 45.2 (1999): 354-384.

Boustan, Leah Platt. "Was Postwar Suburbanization 'White Flight'? Evidence from the Black Migration." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 125.1 (2010): 417-443.

Midterm Exam (June 18)

Topics in Urban Economics (June 22 - July 1) NOTE: NO CLASS June 19th & June 26th.

3. Urban Transit

O'Sullivan: Ch. 11

Baum-Snow, Nathaniel, Matthew E. Kahn, and Richard Voith. "Effects of Urban Rail Transit Expansions: Evidence from Sixteen Cities, 1970-2000 [with Comment]." *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs* (2005): 147-206.

4. Education

O'Sullivan: Ch. 12

Black, Sandra E. "Do better schools matter? Parental valuation of elementary education." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (1999): 577-599.

Other Stuff

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-867-1111, Willard 322, and www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices. Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices.

Religious Observance Policy

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so we can make proper arrangements.

Classroom Behavior Policy

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to