

Economics 332

Urban Economics

Fall 2011

Instructor: Art O'Sullivan arthuro@lclark.edu 768-7610

Office Hours: 326 Howard Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 - 11:00

Text: O'Sullivan, *Urban Economics 7e* (McGraw-Hill, 2009)

TOPICS, OBJECTIVES, AND GOALS

This course uses economic analysis to explain why cities exist, why some cities are larger than others, and how cities grow. We'll examine land-use patterns within cities, exploring the market forces behind the development of the monocentric cities of the early 20th Century and the transition to modern multi-centric cities. We'll look at the economic forces behind segregation with respect to race and income. We'll also explore the role of government in cities, considering economic-development policies, land-use policies (zoning and growth control), transportation policy (for automobiles and public transit), and education. We'll also explore the causes and consequences of urban crime and poverty.

Grading

Your course grade will be determined by two midterm exams (each worth 25%), a course project (25%), and class participation (25%).

Course Project

The course project is *I'd like to know more about x*, where you choose *x*--a specific public policy (e.g., local housing-assistance program, bicycle policies), an observed behavior (e.g., panhandling, a firm's location decision), an empirical regularity (e.g., residential segregation, gentrification), or some other economic phenomenon related to the course. Working with the instructor, you will develop a reading list of relevant material, with the appropriate mix of policy reports, theoretical work, and empirical results. You will write a brief paper (5 - 7 pages), and present what you've

learned about x to the class. The target length of your presentation is 20 minutes, leaving 30-40 minutes for questions and discussion.

POLICY STATEMENTS

Learning Disabilities: If you have a disability that may affect your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office in Albany Quadrangle (x7191). The SSS Office will notify me of the accommodations for which you are eligible.

Academic Integrity: I expect you to understand and abide by the College's Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures.

Econ 332: Schedule of Reading and Class Sessions			
Date	Session	Topic	Reading
30-Aug	1	Introduction & Overview	Chapter 1
1-Sep	2	Why Cities?	Chapter 2
6-Sep	3	Why Cities?	
8-Sep	4	Why Cluster?	Chapter 3
13-Sep	5	Why Cluster?	
15-Sep	6	City Size	Chapter 4
20-Sep	7	Urban Growth	Chapter 5
22-Sep	8	Urban Growth	
27-Sep	9	Urban Rent	Chapter 6
29-Sep	10	Urban Rent	
4-Oct	11	Midterm 1	
6-Oct		<i>Fall Break</i>	
11-Oct	12	Land Use Patterns	Chapter 7
13-Oct	13	Neighborhoods	Chapter 8
18-Oct	14	Neighborhoods	
20-Oct	15	Zoning and Growth Control	Chapter 9
25-Oct	16	Zoning and Growth Control	
27-Oct	17	Autos and Highways	Chapter 10
1-Nov	18	Autos and Highways	
3-Nov	19	Mass Transit	Chapter 11
8-Nov	20	Mass Transit	
10-Nov	21	Education	handout
15-Nov	22	Urban Crime	Chapter 12
17-Nov	23	Buffer	
22-Nov	24	Midterm 2	
24-Nov		<i>Thanksgiving break</i>	
29-Nov	25	Project: More about <i>x</i>	
1-Dec	26	Project: More about <i>x</i>	
6-Dec	27	Project: More about <i>x</i>	