

Urban Economy - URP 6042

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

University of Florida

Instructor: Abhinav Alakshendra, Ph.D.
ARCH 448
352-294-1488
alakshendra@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 1.00-3.00 PM and/or by appointment.

Course Description:

This course offers an overview of selected important topics in urban economics. Urban economics, as a discipline lies at the intersection of geography and economics. At a general level, urban economics brings space into economic considerations. Urban economics puts economics and geography together, exploring the geographical or location choices of utility-maximizing households and profit-maximizing firms. Urban economics also identifies inefficiencies in location choices and examines alternative public policies to promote efficient choices

Primarily, this course will address following questions. Why do cities exist? Why cities differ from each other in size, structure, and other characteristics? What makes some of the cities grow exponentially? How do firms and individual decide where to locate? Why do firms cluster in urban locations? How price of land is determined and how it varies across space? What causes urban problems such as poverty, crime, housing, transportation, and pollution? How urban government addresses the above mentioned issues? This course will be applied in nature and will take an interdisciplinary approach.

Course Objectives:

- Evaluate urban problems.
- Explain why cities differ from each other in size, structure, and other characteristics.
- Understand what makes some of the cities grow exponentially.
- Assess how firms and individual decide where to locate.
- Explain why firms cluster in urban locations.
- Breakdown what causes urban problems such as poverty, crime, housing, transportation, and pollution.
- Outline how urban government addresses the poverty, crime, housing, transportation, and pollution.
- Outline Planning decision.

Course Communications:

Your instructor is always available by email, and you can expect a response to emails within 24-36 hours. The instructor is also available for phone calls or live chat by appointment. Please contact the instructor by email to arrange a call or chat.

Required Text:

O'Sullivan Arthur, *Urban Economics* (8th Edition), McGraw Hill/Irwin.

Required Readings:

(Module 1-4)

O'Sullivan, Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and the PowerPoint presentations.

Glaeser, Edward, "Why Economists Still Like Cities," *City Journal* (Spring 1996): pp. 70-77.

John Quigley, "Urban diversity and economic growth." *Journal of economic perspectives*, Spring 1998, pp. 127-138.

Glaeser, Edward L., "Are Cities Dying?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 12(1998);, pp. 139-160.

Saxenian, AnnaLee (1996); *Inside Out: Regional Networks and industrial Adaptation in Silicon valley and Route 128*. *Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research*, Vol 2, No 2, pp 41-60.

(Module 5-8)

O'Sullivan, Chapters 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17 (p. 431-434, 440-447) and the PowerPoint presentations.

Paul Krugman, "Space: the final frontier." *Journal of economic perspectives*, Spring 1998,. pp. 161-174.

Cohen, M., R. Rust, S. Steen, and S. Tidd. "Willingness-to-pay for Crime Control Programs.," *Criminology* 42 (2004), pp. 89-109.

Thalman, Philippe. (1998). Identifying households which need housing assistance. *Urban Studies*, 36 (11), 1933-1947.

Chouinard, Hayley, and Jeffrey M. Perloff. "Incidence of Federal and State Gasoline Taxes." *Economic Letters* 83 (2004), pp. 55-60.

Course expectations:

I don't assume prior knowledge of microeconomics and calculus. Some class time will be used to cover basics of economics and econometrics.

Grading:

Assignment	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
		(Weighted by group)
Discussions and Participation	100	10%
Course Project: Submission of Topic (50 pts) Literature Review (50 pts) Presentation of Research (150 pts) Presentation Feedback (50 pts) Final Research Proposal/paper (200 pts)	500	50%
Assignments (4): Diversity and Urbanization (30 pts) Sports Stadium Impact (50 pts) Housing Policy (50 pts) City Profile : 3 parts (270 pts)	400	40%
Total:	1000	100%

Letter grades:

Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92.9	85-89.9	82-84.9	80-81.9	77-79.9	73-76.9	70-72.9	67-69.9	63-66.9	60-62.9	Below 60
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

Course Outline:

Module	Topics Covered
Module 1	Introduction to urban economics: Cities
Module 2	Why do cities exist?
Module 3	Why do firms cluster?
Module 4	City size and urban growth
Module 5	Urban land rent
Module 6	Education, crime, and neighborhood: The Nexus
Module 7	Urban housing policy
Module 8	Local government

Make-up Work:

No late work will be accepted. Computer problems that arise during submission will not be accepted as an excuse for late work. All work must be completed and submitted by the designated time in Sakai or you will not receive credit for the assignment.

In the event that you have technical difficulties with e-Learning, please contact the UF Help Desk. If your technical difficulties will cause you to miss a due date, you **MUST** report the problem to Help Desk. Include the ticket number and an explanation of the issue based on a consult with Help Desk in an e-mail to the instructor to explain the late assignment/quiz/test.

The course faculty reserves the right to accept or decline tickets from the UF Help Desk based on individual circumstances.

Course Technology:

In the event that you have technical difficulties with e-Learning, please contact the UF Help Desk. If your technical difficulties will cause you to miss a due date, you **MUST** report the problem to Help Desk. Include the ticket number and an explanation of the issue based on consult with Help Desk in an e-mail to the instructor to explain the late assignment/quiz/test. The course faculty reserves the right to accept or decline tickets from the UF Help Desk based on individual circumstances.

Student Support Services:

As a student in a distance learning course or program, you have access to the same student support services that on campus students have. For course content questions contact your instructor.

For any technical issues you encounter with your course please contact the UF computing Help Desk at 342-392-HELP (4357), select option 2. For Help Desk hours visit: [Information Technology–UF Computing Help Desk](#) (Links to an external site.). Other resources are available at [Student Services|Distance Learning](#) (Links to an external site.).

Accommodation for students with disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. Staff at the Disability Resource Center will assist any student who registers as having a disability.

Student Honor Code and Academic Honesty:

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Students must follow the University's policy regarding cheating and the use of copyrighted materials. Please visit <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> for more information.

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all forms of communication. Please visit <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf> to know more.

Disclaimer:

Subsequent changes may be made to any aspect or detail of this syllabus if and when necessary. Any changes will be announced in class as soon as practical.