

# URP 6042: Urban Economy

Spring 2025 | Course URL: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/525005>

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Emre Tepe Assistant Professor	<b>Time:</b>	No designated meeting time
<b>Email:</b>	emretepe@ufl.edu	<b>Place:</b>	Virtual
<b>Office:</b>	Architecture Building 444	<b>Delivery:</b>	Online (100 %) - asynchronous

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**Course Communication:** Instructors can be reached by email or Canvas inbox. Expect a response in 48 hours, excluding holidays and weekends.

**Office hours:** The instructor will offer office hours to answer students' course-related questions and concerns over Zoom or in-person meetings. Students are expected to schedule office hours to avoid any time conflicts. Please sign up for an available time slot using the following link: [office hour sign-up link](#).

**Course materials:** All course materials, including slides, class notes, assignment instructions, and course video records, will be available on the Canvas course page. It's highly recommended that you regularly check the designated course page on Canvas for updates and new course materials.

**Textbook:** The following book will be used as the textbook for this class: O'Sullivan Arthur, Urban Economics (8th Edition), McGraw Hill/Irwin. You can also use newer versions if you cannot find the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**Primary references:** Besides the textbook, you may consider reading the following reference if you want to learn more about urban economics: Richard, J. A., A Companion to Urban Economics, Wiley-Blackwell, 2006.

**Course description:** This course is designed to provide fundamental knowledge about urban economics. Urban economics is a field that lies at the intersection of geography and economics, introducing the role of space into economic considerations. In general, urban economics tries to address the following questions: (1) Why do cities exist? (2) Why do some cities grow more rapidly while some decline? (3) What types of government interventions could result in urban growth? (4) Where to locate almost all urban land-uses? (5) Why do metropolitan areas exist? The basic objectives of this course are to acquaint students with a fundamental understanding of urban economics and the basic concept of microeconomics.

**Course objectives:** By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Module 1
  - Examine the characteristics of cities.
  - Recall basic concepts of microeconomics.
  - Discuss the economic explanation behind the existence of cities.
- Module 2
  - Recall the history of cities.
  - Explain why cities differ from each other in size, structure, and other characteristics.
  - Describe what makes some of the cities grow exponentially.
- Module 3
  - State the importance of being spatially close.

- Explain why firms cluster in urban locations.
- Discuss the benefits of spatial agglomerations.
- Module 4
  - Describe the urban land uses
  - Assess how firms and individuals decide where to locate.
- Module 5
  - Explain why some specific land uses prefer certain areas in a city
  - Explain competition among various land uses
  - Discuss economic factors behind urban phenomena like urban sprawl and spatial segregation
- Module 6
  - Explain the relationships between urbanization and urban problems such as poverty and crime.
  - Describe neighborhood structures in cities.
  - Discuss changes in neighborhood structure over time.
- Module 7
  - Discuss housing policy in urban areas.
  - Associate housing with transportation.
  - Explain pollution as a result of employed housing and transportation policies.
- Module 8
  - Outline how urban government addresses poverty, crime, housing, transportation, and pollution.
  - Outline planning decisions and their effect on changing the form and structure of communities.
  - Discuss the role of local governments in shaping cities

**Instructional methods:** The course will provide lectures presenting concepts and techniques for urban economics. Several homework assignments will test students' understanding of the lecture presentations.

**Important dates:**

- Classes Begin ..... January 13, 2025
- Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. day) ..... January 20, 2025
- Spring Break ..... March 15 – 23, 2025
- End of Classes ..... April 23, 2025

**Course modules:**

- 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

**Grade distribution:**

- Questionnaires and Feedback Surveys – 3%
  - Create your Student Profile – not graded
  - 3-2-1 – not graded
  - Module 2: Term Project Preparation – 3pt
- Term Project – 90%
  - Module 2: City Analysis Discussion – 15pt
  - Module 3: Why Are Clusters Formed? – 15pt
  - Module 4: City Land Use – 15pt
  - Group Draft – 5pt
  - Module 5: Urban Land Rent – 15pt
  - Module 6: Education, Crime, and Neighborhood – 15pt
  - Module 7: Urban Housing Policy – 15pt
  - Module 8: Local Government Discussion– 15pt
  - Final Presentation – 25pt
- Discussions – 7%
  - Introductory Discussion Board – 4pt
  - Module 3 Discussion – 3pt

**Letter grade distribution:**

>= 93.00	A	73.00 - 77.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
88.00 - 89.99	B+	68.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 87.99	B	58.00 - 67.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	55.00 - 57.99	D-
78.00 - 79.99	C+	<= 54.99	E

**Deadline of assignments:** Deadlines of assignments will be posted on Canvas.

**Submissions:** Students must submit their assignments to the assignments in Canvas in the format identified in the instructions. Computer problems that arise during submission will generally not be accepted as an excuse for late work. Still, please refer to the “Getting Help” section of this syllabus about documenting technical issues with the Help Desk.

**Course policies:**

*Make-up policy:* Up to 2 late submissions are accepted. Please review the late submission policy for details. Please feel free to contact me for emergency issues.

*Course technology:* We will use Canvas and VoiceThread in this course. You can learn more about these tools in the Start Here module and contact the UF Help Desk for additional assistance at (352) 392-4357, option 2.

## **UF Policies:**

*University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:* Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

*University Policy on Academic Conduct:* UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. 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.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

*Netiquette:* All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. Refer to [Netiquette Guidelines](#) for more details.

*Student evaluations:* Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

*Add/Drop policy:* University policies on such matters as add/drop, incomplete, academic probation, termination of enrollment, reinstatement, and other expectations or procedures can be found in the graduate student handbook and on the Dean of Students website.

## **Getting Help:**

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

(Required) Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.