

Syllabus

Econ 322: Urban Economics
TTh 4:40 p.m. – 5:55 p.m. in B217

Dr. Samia Islam
Spring 2010

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Office Hours: MWF 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (other times, by appointment)

I. Course Description

In this course, we will attempt to understand what makes cities tick, what prevents them from ticking accurately and what we can do about these inaccuracies.

You can think of this course as being divided into two parts. In the first part of the course theories of location will be considered. With these theories we will attempt to understand why cities exist, why they are located where they are, and the spatial distribution of alternative activities within cities. In part two of the course, we draw upon our knowledge of location theory to analyze the urban problem of neighborhood decay, poverty, substandard housing, urban sprawl, housing segregation, traffic congestion and other urban problems.

PREREQ: Econ 202

II. Textbook:

Urban Economics, 7th edition, by Arthur O'Sullivan
Assigned articles and handouts from instructor.

III. Student Responsibilities

You are expected to attend each class meeting. It is your responsibility to be aware of all announcements made in class about test dates, assignment due dates, course content, test content and other course information. Some of this information may also be available on Blackboard. It is important that you check Blackboard on a daily basis.

Readings will consist of the textbook chapters listed below. In addition, some readings are assigned for which you will either be given handouts or information on how to access them online.

Your responsibilities, like mine, include being well-prepared for class. Your job is to read the assigned readings before class and to be prepared to discuss the topics. If you can't make it to class, make sure you arrange to obtain the information you missed.

IV. Assessment

Your progress will be assessed by 2 midterm exams (not cumulative). Each of the exams will consist of a few short-answer questions. We do not have any exams during finals week. The paper is in lieu of an in class final exam.

You are required to prepare a poster presentation for the 7th Annual Boise State Undergraduate Research Conference to be held on Monday, **April 12, 2010** from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. This will be a group (app. 5 students per team) project and abstract submission deadline is Wednesday **February 17, 2010**. Each team will choose one topic covered in our urban economics class (and relevant for Boise city or the Treasure Valley area), e.g., land use/zoning, location choice, transportation, housing market, economic development, urban growth management, public transit, crime, or, congestion. Teams will be set up and choose topics by the end of January.

I will assign a topic for the paper. Details on the requirements for the paper will be provided by the end of February. The paper is due on **Tuesday, May 4, 2010**.

V. Evaluation Procedure

Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
Final Project: Poster Presentation	25%
Paper	25%

	100%

Grading policies and exam grades are final and not subject to negotiation. I reserve the right to adjust each student’s grade up or down based on individual in-class performance/participation.

VI. Grading Scale

A+	96.5 and above	B-	79.5 - 82.49	D	62.5 - 66.49
A	92.5 - 96.49	C+	76.5 - 79.49	D-	59.5 - 62.49
A	89.5 - 92.49	C	72.5 - 76.49	F	59.49 or less
B+	86.5 - 89.49	C-	69.5 - 72.49		
B	82.5 - 86.49	D+	66.5 - 69.49		

VII. Class Policy

Exams must be taken on the scheduled dates. Written assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date and must be printed out using a word processing program or typed. Late assignments will not be accepted. Exceptions to this policy will be granted **only** with **prior** permission from me.

VIII. Academic Integrity

Refer to Boise State’s Student Code of Conduct for definitions of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty as well as policies and procedures for handling such cases which can be found at: <http://www.boisestate.edu/osrr/>

I strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with this policy as it is applicable to all of your classes and dealings with the University. Any student found plagiarizing, cheating or fabricating any assignment will receive an automatic “F” for the course and be dismissed from class immediately.

IX. Important Dates

Abstract Submission for Undergrad Research and Scholarship Conference	Wednesday, February 17, 2010
First Exam	Thursday, February 25, 2010
Second Exam	Thursday, April 29, 2010
Undergraduate Research Conference Presentation	Monday, April 12, 2010, if selected 4 th week of April, 2010, for others
Research Paper Submission	Tuesday, May 4, 2010

I have the discretion to reschedule midterm exams but will notify you in advance of any changes through in-class announcements and Blackboard.

X. Student Behavior in Class

There are some disruptive behaviors that I will not tolerate in the classroom. Some of those include talking among yourselves while I am lecturing and being rude to your classmates and/or myself.

XI. Some other Relevant Spring 2010 Deadlines

Monday, Jan 25	Last day for faculty initiated drops for non-attendance
Monday, Feb 1	Last day to register; add class, etc.
Monday, Mar 1	Last day to drop class or withdraw completely
Mar 29 – Apr 4	Spring Break

XII. Tentative Course Outline and Progress

Week One:	Introduction and Overview Textbook + Assigned Reading(s)
Week Two, Three and Four:	Market Forces in the development of Cities Text: Chapters 2, 3, and 5 + Assigned Reading(s)
Weeks Five:	Land Rent and Urban Land-Use Patterns Text: Chapter 6 + Assigned Reading(s)
Week Six:	Exam 1
Weeks Seven - Nine:	Urban Land-Use Patterns Chapter 7, 8, and 9 + Assigned Reading(s)
Weeks Ten - Eleven	Urban Transportation Text: Chapter 10 and 11 + Assigned Reading(s)
[Week Twelve and Thirteen:	Spring Break]
Weeks Fourteen:	Housing Text: Chapter 13 and 14
Week Fifteen:	Conference
Week Sixteen	Local Government Text: Chapter 15
Week Seventeen	Crime (time permitting)

XIII. Assigned readings (subject to change)

Chapter 2, 3 and 5:

Keith R. Ihlanfeldt, "The Importance of the Central City to the Regional and National Economy: A Review of the Arguments and Empirical Evidence", *Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research*, 1(2), June 1995.

John M. Quigley, "Urban Diversity and Economic Growth", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12(2), pp. 127-138, Spring 1998.

Edward L. Glaeser, "Why Economists Still Like Cities", *City Journal*, Spring 1996.

Chapter 6, 7 and 8:

Edward L. Glaeser and Jesse M. Shapiro, "City Growth and the 2000 Census: Which Places Grew", and Why, The Brookings Institution, Survey Series - Census 2000, Center on Urban & Metropolitan Policy, May 2001.

Amy Ellen Schwartz and Ingrid Gould Ellen, "No Easy Answers: Cautionary Notes for Competitive Cities Competitiveness", Brookings Institute Papers, February, 2009.

Jan K. Brueckner, "Urban sprawl: diagnosis and remedies", *International Regional Science Review*, 23(2), pp. 160-171, April 2000.

Paul N. Courant, How would you know a good economic development policy if you tripped over one? Hint: Don't just count jobs, *National Tax Journal*, Vol. 47, no. 4, pp. 863-81, December, 1994.

Edward L. Glaeser, Jacob L. Vigdor and Terry Sanford, "Racial Segregation in the 2000 Census: Promising News", The Brookings Institution Survey Series, Center on Urban & Metropolitan Policy, April 2001.

Chapter 9, 10 and 11:

William A. Fischel, "Comment on Carl Abbott, 'The Portland Region: Where City and Suburbs Talk with Each Other...and Sometimes Agree,'" in *Readings in Urban Economics: Issues and Public Policy* (Robert W. Wassmer, ed.), Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 2000.

Peter Gordon and Harry W. Richardson, Are compact cities a desirable planning goal?, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, vol. 63 (1), p95 (12), Winter 1997.

Helen F. Ladd, "Spatially Targeted Economic Development Strategies: Do They Work?", *Cityscape*, Col. 1 (1), 1994: 193-218.

Anthony Downs, "The Big Picture: How America's Cities Are Growing", *The Brookings Review*, 16(4), pp. 8-11, Fall, 1998.

Chapter 13, 14 and 15:

John M. Quigley, "A Decent Home: Housing Policy in Perspective", Berkeley Program on Housing and Urban Policy. Working Papers: Paper W99-007, November 1, 1999.

William C. Apgar, "Which housing policy is best?", *Housing Policy Debate*, 1(1), 1990.

Raymond Struyk, Comment on William Apgar's "Which housing policy is best?", *Housing Policy Debate*, 1(1), 1990.

XIV. Using Blackboard

Blackboard will be my primary means of "out of class" communication with you. For information concerning students' rights and responsibilities while enrolled in online courses, please read the "Student Privacy Notice" at:

<http://itc.boisestate.edu/BbSupport/BbDocs/general/PrivacyNotice.htm>

I will post announcements, assignments, and other important information relevant to this course on Blackboard 6.

Important: Every time you log in, check the ANNOUNCEMENTS, COURSE DOCUMENTS, and ASSIGNMENTS folders

I'll use the email function of Blackboard 6 to notify you of any sudden changes (e.g., class cancellation). It is imperative that you keep your email addresses up-to-date AND check Blackboard everyday. For technical problems:

Email: blackboard@boisestate.edu; or call: (208) 426-2583 (8-5 Mon-Fri); Room: SM 201.

7th annual Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Conference, Boise State University, Monday, April 12, 2010

Call for Abstracts

All Boise State University undergraduate students are invited to submit abstracts of their research, professional work or creative activities for presentation at the sixth annual Boise State University Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Conference to be held on Monday, April 12, 2010. Abstracts for research work in progress or research proposals will also be accepted.

Application Information (also available at:

<http://www.boisestate.edu/undergraduateresearch/confinfo.shtml>)

All BSU undergraduate students are invited to submit abstracts of their research, professional work or creative activities for presentation at the sixth annual Boise State University Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Conference. The abstract includes the research purpose(s) and highlights of both methodology and results. Undergraduate students may present, in poster, podium presentation or other visual form, their work in professional practice, visual or performing arts, and scholarly research. Abstracts for research work in progress or research proposals will also be accepted.

A jury of faculty from each college will make decisions regarding the work accepted for display at the conference. Each application must bear the signature of a faculty sponsor. The conference coordinator will obtain the necessary approval signatures after your application has been submitted. The sponsoring faculty member has the responsibility of providing primary assistance to the student(s) as she, he or they construct the poster or presentation. Students may submit individual or team projects.

If you need information or have questions regarding the use of human subjects, animals or biohazards in your research, please contact the Coordinator for Research Compliance by phone, (208) 426-1574 or send an e-mail to HumanSubjects@boisestate.edu.

The Application and Abstract Submission form must be submitted by Wednesday, February 17, 2010. The conference organizer will obtain your faculty sponsor's approval.

To complete an application, please click the link below. If your abstract contains special symbols or characters, please e-mail your abstract in Word format to judywauer@boisestate.edu to ensure the text is correct in the conference program. Please call Judy Wauer at 426-4062 if you need assistance or have questions regarding the form.

2010 Conference Application - Project Information:

Poster Presentations: Each research and professional practice poster will be displayed on a tabletop, display board or easel (students make that designation on the application).

Posters must not exceed 4' x 5' and may be constructed using any type of appropriate display materials. It must be readable from at least three feet away.

The Application and Abstract Submission form must be submitted by **Wednesday, February 17, 2010.**

More than 130 research, artistic and scholarly projects, representing over 300 Boise State University undergraduates, were presented at the 6th Annual Undergraduate Research & Scholarship Conference held in April 2009 in the Student Union Building. Students who participated in the conference represented a diverse range of academic disciplines. Sona Andrews, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mark Rudin, Vice President for Research; and Sharon McGuire, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies spoke at the awards ceremony and presented awards recognizing students for their outstanding achievement.

This annual event is free and open to the public.