

Syllabus

Econ 322: Urban Economics

TTh 4:40 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.

Dr. Samia Islam

Spring 2011

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Office Hours: T Th 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 8th Annual Boise State Undergraduate Research Conference to be held on **Monday, April 11, 2011** 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 **Thursday, April 28, 2011**.

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.

Grades will be posted within 5 working days of an exam, including the last one. Please refrain from emailing me, asking about when exam grades will be available.

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.

Communication Norms for Class and Correspondence

There are some behaviors that I will not tolerate in the classroom, including - but not limited to - texting, talking and/or any inattentive conduct while I am lecturing, being disrespectful to either me and/or your classmates, and all other similarly disruptive behavior.

Cell phones must be turned off or on silent mode during class. If you have to receive a call, you need to leave the class room.

Email norms for this class:

Email messages need to be necessary, respectful (beginning with a proper address, such as “Prof. Islam or Dr. Islam”), concise, and clear. Texting language and acronyms in emails are not acceptable. For most course-related questions refer to syllabus first before emailing me. If you do not get an email response

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. 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.

X. Important Dates

Abstract Submission for Undergrad Research and Scholarship Conference	Monday, February 21, 2011
Exam 1	Thursday, February 24, 2011
Undergraduate Research Conference Presentation	Monday, April 11, 2011, if selected 4th week of April, 2011, for others
Research Paper due	Thursday, April 28, 2011
Exam 2	Thursday, May 12, 2011, 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

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

XI. Some other Relevant Spring 2010 Deadlines

Monday, Jan 24	Last day for faculty initiated drops for non-attendance
Monday, Jan 31	Last day to register; add class, etc.
Monday, Feb 28	Last day to drop class or withdraw completely
Mar 28 – Apr 3	Spring Break

XII. Tentative Course Outline and Progress

Week One:	Introduction and Overview Text + 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)

[Spring Break]

Week Thirteen:	Conference
Weeks Fourteen - Sixteen:	Housing Text: Chapter 13 and 14 Local Government Text: Chapter 15 Paper due (April 28)
Week Seventeen:	Exam 2

XII. 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 every day. For technical problems:

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

8th annual Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Conference, Boise State University, Monday, April 11, 2011

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 11, 2011**. Abstracts for research work in progress or research proposals will also be accepted.

Application Information:

(also available at: <http://academics.boisestate.edu/undergraduateresearch/conference-information/>)

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.

For information regarding the use of human subjects, animals or biohazards in your research, please contact the Coordinator for Research Compliance at (208) 426-5401 or e-mail at ResearchCompliance@boisestate.edu

The Application and Abstract submission deadline is Monday, February 21, 2011.

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 erinmuggli@boisestate.edu to ensure the text is correct in the conference program. Please call Erin Muggli 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 **Monday, February 21, 2011**.

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 2010 in the Student Union Building. Students who participated in the conference represented a diverse range of academic disciplines. The Provost; Vice President for Academic Affairs; Vice President for Research; and 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.