

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

FYSM 1608 A

Urban Economics

Fall 2019 – Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Attah K. Boame

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Seminar hours: Wednesday, 18:05–20:55

Office hours: Wednesday, 17:15–17:45, or by appointment

OBJECTIVES

This course explores the economics of cities, suburbs, and urban problems. The course covers the study of location choices of firms and households, and the impact of government policies on these choices. In other words, we will study the where of economic activity. The focus on location decisions allows us to examine why cities exist, why they grow, how different activities are arranged within cities, and the spatial aspects of urban problems such as congestion and urban sprawl. The objectives of the course are:

- To introduce the key urban economics concepts, ideas, and terminology; and
- To develop the ability to undertake economic thinking about urban economic problems and policy formulation.

PREREQUISITE

There are no prerequisites for FYSM 1608 A.

FORMAT

This is a seminar (participation-based) course. Students are expected to read course material in advance so as to be able to participate in class discussions.

RESEARCH PROJECT

To increase class participation, students will complete a group research project that involves a profile of selected urban areas in Canada. The details will be provided in a separate document. Each group will present their research project to the class. Each group will select one of the Canadian provinces (except Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador) for their research project. **The marks for the participation and presentation component of the research project will be allocated by each group member.**

The research projects will be presented to the class on March 11, 2020. The schedule for the final research project report is shown below:

Research report submitted in class on	To be graded and returned in class on
March 18, 2020	April 1, 2020
March 25, 2020	Not Applicable
April 1, 2020	Not Applicable

Any project report that is not handed in by April 1, 2020 will receive zero marks.

EVALUATION

Research Project:	25% (Report 5%; Participation and Presentation 20%)		
Mid-session Examination:	15%	Test 1:	10%
Final Examination:	40%	Test 2:	10%

Feedback on the first graded work (Test 1) for the fall term will be provided by October 30, 2019. Feedback on the first graded work (Test 2) for the winter term will be provided by February 26, 2020.

The tests, mid-session examination, and final examination will be essay-based applications of urban economics concepts and will cover all the material discussed in class and in the required textbook.

Students who can document a compelling reason for missing the mid-session examination or one of the tests will be excused and their final grade will be based on their performance in the rest of the course—i.e., the weight of each of the remaining evaluation instruments will rise by a factor of 20/17 or 10/9, respectively (e.g., the final examination weight will become $40\% \times 10/9 = 44.44\%$ in the latter case). Students must inform the instructor of such an absence in advance, if possible.

Students must fulfil all of the preceding course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher). Note, also the following:

“Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.”

Application to write a deferred final examination must be made at the Registrar’s Office.

PLAGIARISM

Please be aware that plagiarism is serious offence at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided. For further information on how to do so, please see “Pammett on Plagiarism and Paraphrasing” at www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries.

“Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).”

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the [Equity Services website](#).

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the [Equity Services website](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the [Paul Menton Centre website](#).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, see [the policy](#).

cuLearn

All relevant course material, assignments, and announcements will be available on cuLearn under FYSM 1608 A, which can be accessed through Carleton University's Web site (carleton.ca/culearn). Students are responsible for checking cuLearn regularly to ensure that they are up to date with any announcements.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

O'Sullivan, A. (2019), Urban Economics, McGraw-Hill Education, New York, 9th Edition.

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census: Geography Index: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/az2-eng.cfm?topic=az2> and Table 1.1: Geographic Areas by province and territory 2016 Census, http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/tab/t1_1-eng.cfm

Recommended:

Bogart, William T. (1998), The Economics of Cities and Suburbs, Prentice Hall, New Jersey (Chapters 1, 9, 13).

Mankiw G., Kneebone R., McKenzie K., Rowe N. Principles of Microeconomics, any edition.

TENTATIVE SEMINAR OUTLINE

I. Introduction and Key Concepts

- Urban Economics and cities
- Key concepts of Urban Economics
- Selected models of Microeconomics

II. Market Forces in the Development of Cities

- Where do cities develop?
- What causes urban economic growth and decline?
- The urban labour market
- Agglomeration economies of scale: localization and urbanization economies
- Central place theory and Rank-size rule

III. Urban Land Use and Housing

- What determines the price of land, and why do prices vary across space?
- Urban form: monocentric city, sub-centres, and "edge cities"
- Zoning and land use controls
- Urban sprawl
- The unique characteristics of housing, and housing policy

IV. Local Government

- Role of local government
- Local public goods
- Property taxes and intergovernmental grants

V. Urban Transportation

- Mass transit and subsidies for public transit
- Cars and roads, and externalities from automobiles

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF SEMINAR CLASSES

DATE	CHAPTER/PROJECT/EXAMINATIONS
September 4, 2019	Chapter 1 Introduction and Chapter 1 (Bogart)
September 11, 2019	Chapter 2
September 18, 2019	Chapter 24
September 25, 2019	Elasticity of Demand and Supply
October 2, 2019	Chapter 4
October 9, 2019	Chapter 5
October 16, 2019	Test 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 24, Elasticity of demand and supply)
October 21 – 25, 2019	Fall break, no classes
October 30, 2019	Chapter 6
November 6, 2019	Chapter 7
November 13, 2019	Research project work in C.U. Library
November 20, 2019	Chapter 8
November 27, 2019	Chapter 9 (Bogart)
December 4, 2019	Mid-session Exam Review
December 9-21, 2019	Mid-session Exam (Chapters 6, 7, 8, Bogart 9); Scheduled by Carleton University Examination Office
January 8, 2020	Chapter 13
January 15, 2020	Chapter 16
January 22, 2020	Chapter 13 (Bogart)
January 29, 2020	Research project work in C.U. Library
February 5, 2020	Test 2 (Chapters 13, 16, Bogart 13)
February 12, 2020	Chapter 17
February 17 - 21, 2020	Winter break, no classes
February 26, 2020	Chapter 18
March 4, 2020	Chapter 19
March 11, 2020	Research project presentation in class
March 18, 2020	Chapter 20
March 25, 2020	Chapter 21
April 1, 2020	Final Exam Review / Course Evaluation
April 13–25, 2020	Final Exam (Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21); Scheduled by Carleton University Examination Office