

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
FYSM 1608 A Urban Economics
Fall 2022 – Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Attah K. Boame

Office: B-840 Loeb Building

Telephone: 613-520-2600 ext. 3769 (No messages, please)

Email: attah.boame@carleton.ca

Seminar hours: Wednesday, 18:05–20:55 pm

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 an in-person seminar and not offered online. Students are expected to attend the live seminars in-person. Students are expected to read in advance the course material, so they can participate in seminar discussions. Students are encouraged to ask questions during the live seminars. There is no Teaching Assistant (TA) for this seminar.

BRIGHTSPACE

All relevant course material and announcements will be available on Brightspace. Students are responsible for checking Brightspace regularly to ensure that they are up to date with any announcements (see link: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/144995>).

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 8 and 15, 2023**.

All final research project reports are due in class on **March 29, 2023**. Any project report that is not handed in by March 29, 2023, will receive zero marks.

EVALUATION

Research Project: 20% (Report 5%; Participation and Presentation 15%)

Mid-session Examination: 20% 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 November 2, 2022. Feedback on the first graded work (Test 2) for the winter term will be provided by February 15, 2023.

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** the preceding course requirements 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 “Academic Integrity and Offenses of Conduct” at <https://carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries/academic-integrity-and-offenses-of-conduct/>

“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. Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. Please review the [processes for academic accommodation requests](#):

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, please review the [Student Guide to Academic Accommodation \(PDF, 2.1 MB\)](#).

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, please review the [Student Guide to Academic Accommodation \(PDF, 2.1 MB\)](#).

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 the [Equity and Inclusive Communities website](#).

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 [Senate Policy on Accommodation for Student Activities \(PDF, 25KB\)](#).

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR PANDEMIC MEASURES

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you must follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Carleton has paused the [COVID-19 Mask Policy](#), but continues to strongly recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. It may become necessary to quickly reinstate the mask requirement if pandemic circumstances were to change.

Vaccines: Further, while proof of vaccination is no longer required as of May 1 to attend campus or in-person activity, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible, and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus)

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

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

You may purchase the textbook at Carleton University bookstore website (<https://www.bkstr.com/carletonstore/course-materials-results?shopBy=course&divisionDisplayName=&departmentDisplayName=FYSM&courseDisplayName=1608§ionDisplayName=A&programId=950&termId=100075799>)

Statistics Canada, 2021 Census: Geography Index: Dictionary, Census of Population, 2021 - Complete A to Z index (statcan.gc.ca) and Table 1.1: Geographic Areas by province and territory 2021 Census, Dictionary, Census of Population, 2021 - Table 1.1 Geographic areas by province and territory, 2021 Census (statcan.gc.ca)

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 7, 2022	Chapter 1 Introduction and Chapter 1 (Bogart)
September 14, 2022	Chapter 2
September 21, 2022	Chapter 24
September 28, 2022	Elasticity of Demand and Supply
October 5, 2022	Chapter 4
October 12, 2022	Chapter 5
October 19, 2022	Test 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 24, Elasticity of demand and supply)
October 24 – 28, 2022	Fall break, no classes
November 2, 2022	Chapter 6
November 9, 2022	Chapter 7 (Research Project Group List Posted on Brightspace)
November 16, 2022	Chapter 8
November 23, 2022	Research project work in Carleton University Library
November 30, 2022	Chapter 9 (Bogart)
December 7, 2022	Mid-session Exam Review
December 10-22, 2022	Mid-session Exam (Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, Bogart 9); Scheduled by Carleton University Examination Office
January 11, 2023	Chapter 13
January 18, 2023	Chapter 16
January 25, 2023	Chapter 13 (Bogart)
February 1, 2023	Test 2 (Chapters 13, 16, Bogart 13)
February 8, 2023	Chapter 17
February 15, 2023	Chapter 18
February 20 - 24, 2023	Winter break, no classes
March 1, 2023	Chapter 19
March 8, 2023	Research project presentation in class
March 15, 2023	Research project presentation in class
March 22, 2023	Chapter 20
March 29, 2023	Chapter 21 (All Research Project Reports due in class)
April 5, 2023	Final Exam Review / Course Evaluation
April 15–27, 2023	Final Exam (Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21); Scheduled by Carleton University Examination Office