



**Carleton University Department of Economics**  
Fall 2023/Winter 2024  
FYSM 1608A  
Urban Economics

### The Instructor

**Instructor:** Attah K Boame, Ph.D  
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**Office Location:** B-840 Loeb Building  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 17:15–17:45, or by appointment

### The Course

**Course Location/Delivery:** In-person ONLY / Log into Carleton Central to view the location.  
**Course Day and Time:** Wednesday from 6:05 pm - 8:55 pm  
Seminars are three hours a week.

**TA:** We do not have a Teaching Assistant for this seminar.

**Brightspace Course Page:**

<https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/le/content/209285/Home?itemIdIdentifier=D2L.LE.Content.ContentObject.ModuleCO-3247770>

**Course Description**

Content of this course may vary from year to year and will be announced in advance of the registration period by the Department of Economics.

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. 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. Topics covered in the seminar include:

**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, polycentric city, sub-centres, and "edge cities"
- Zoning and land use controls
- Urban sprawl
- The unique characteristics of housing and housing policy

## IV. Urban Transportation

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

## V. Local Government

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

### Learning Outcomes

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.

### Preclusions and Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): normally restricted to students entering the first year of a B.Econ., B.A., B.Cog.Sc., B.Co.M.S., B.Econ. or B.G.In.S. program.

### Course Calendar

DATE	CHAPTER/PROJECT/EXAMINATIONS
September 6, 2023	Chapter 1 Introduction and Chapter 1 (Bogart)
September 13, 2023	Chapter 2
September 20, 2023	Chapter 24
September 27, 2023	Elasticity of Demand and Supply
October 4, 2023	Chapter 4
October 11, 2023	Chapter 5

<b>October 18, 2023</b>	<b>Test 1 (Chapters 2, 4, 24, Elasticity of demand and supply)</b>
<b>October 23 – 27, 2023</b>	<b>Fall break, no classes</b>
November 1, 2023	Chapter 6
November 8, 2023	Chapter 7 ( <b>Research Project Group List Posted on Brightspace</b> )
November 15, 2023	Chapter 8
November 22, 2023	Research project work in Carleton University Library
November 29, 2023	Chapter 9 (Bogart)
December 6, 2023	Mid-session Exam Review
<b>December 10-22, 2023</b>	<b>Mid-session Exam (Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, Bogart 9); Scheduled by Carleton University Examination Office</b>
January 10, 2024	Chapter 13
January 17, 2024	Chapter 16
January 24, 2024	Chapter 13 (Bogart)
<b>January 31, 2024</b>	<b>Test 2 (Chapters 13, 16, Bogart 13)</b>
February 7, 2024	Chapter 17
February 14, 2024	Research project work in Carleton University Library
<b>February 19 - 23, 2024</b>	<b>Winter break, no classes</b>
February 29, 2024	Chapter 18
March 6, 2024	Chapter 19
March 13, 2024	Research project presentation in class
March 20, 2024	Research project presentation in class
March 27, 2024	Chapter 20
<b>April 3, 2024</b>	Chapter 21 ( <b>All Research Project Reports due in class</b> )
April 10, 2024	Final Exam Review / Course Evaluation
<b>April 15–27, 2024</b>	<b>Final Exam (Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21); Scheduled by Carleton University Examination Office</b>

## Textbooks and Readings

### Texts

Title	Author(s)	ISBN
Urban Economics	Arthur O’Sullivan	978-1-260-08449-8
The Economics of Cities and Suburbs	William Bogart	0-13-569971-1

Available from: O’Sullivan textbook is at Carleton University Bookstore; Bogart textbook is on a 2-hour reserve at Carleton University library under course number.

Statistics Canada, 2021 Census: Geography Index: [Dictionary, Census of Population, 2021 - Complete A to Z index \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/92-627-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.htm) 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 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

## Evaluation

### Evaluation

Assignment/Test	Date	Mode of Delivery	Percentage of Grade
Test 1	Oct. 18, 2023	In-person	10
Mid-Session Examination	Dec. 10 – 22, 2023	In-person	20
Test 2	January 31, 2024	In-person	10
Research Project	March 13 and 20, 2024	In-person presentation	15
	April 3, 2024	Report	5
Final Examination	April 13 – 25, 2024	In-person	40
			Total: 100%

### Information About Assignments

Students will complete group research project involving 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.**

Students are not allowed to use Generative Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT) in this seminar.

### Late Policies and Extensions for Term Work

All final research project reports are due in class on **April 3, 2024**. Any project report that is not handed in by April 3, 2024, will receive zero marks.

### Midterm/Test Policies

Feedback on the first graded work (Test 1) for the fall term will be provided by November 1, 2023. Feedback on the first graded work (Test 2) for the winter term will be provided by February 14, 2024.

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 (e.g., a Self-Declaration form or PMC letter of accommodation) 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.**

#### Final Exam

The final exam will be in-person as scheduled by the University during the exam period. Students are not to make travel plans during the exam period as that is not a valid reason for missing a final exam.

#### Satisfactory Performance Criteria

Students must fulfil **all** the preceding course requirements to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher).

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.

#### Deferred Finals

Students who do not write the final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred final examination by contacting the Registrar's Office no later than three working days after the original final examination was scheduled. If a student writes a deferred examination, the deferred examination will carry the same weight as the final examination in determining the course grade. Any deferred examination will not be identical to the original final examination.

Students must fulfil **all** the preceding course requirements to write a deferred final examination.

#### E-Proctoring

E-proctoring will not be used for evaluations in this seminar.

**Plagiarism, Resources and Mental Health, Academic Accommodations**

You are responsible for reading and knowing the information about plagiarism, Carleton University resources, and academic accommodations found [HERE](#).