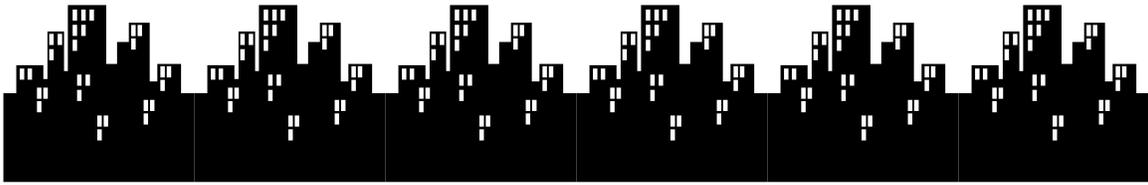


Economics 4650/5750: Urban Economics



Prerequisite

Economics 3550 (Intermediate Microeconomics) with a grade of C or better, **seriously**.

Resources

Required Text:

- O’Sullivan, Arthur (2011). *Urban Economics*. 8th ed. McGraw-Hill Irwin.
- Glaeser, Edward (2011). *The Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention makes us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier*. New York: The Penguin Press.

Readings from the following will be on reserve:

- Fischel (2004). “An Economic History of Zoning and a Cure for its Exclusionary Effects.” *Urban Studies*, 41(2): 317-340
- Glaeser, Kallal, Scheinkman and Shleifer (1992). “Growth in Cities.” *Journal of Political Economy*, 100(6): 1126-1152. ☹
- Glaeser and Gyourko (2002). “Zoning’s Steep Price.” *Regulation*, 2002(Fall): 24-30. ☹
- Glaeser and Saiz (2003). *The Rise of the Skilled City*. NBER Working Paper 10191. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research. ☹
- Glaeser (2004). “Sprawl and Urban Growth.” In: Henderson, J.V. and J.F. Thisse, eds. *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics, Vol. 4*. Elsevier ☹
- Glaeser, Gyourko, and Saks (2006). “Urban Growth and Housing Supply.” *Journal of Economic Geography*, 6(2006): 71-89. ☹
- Shoup, Donald (1997). “The High Cost of Free Parking.” *Journal of Planning, Education, and Research*, 17(1): 3-20.

Reading on Blackboard: Just for fun! [ok, I know you won't read them, but I don't want to delete them yet]

- Garreau, Joel (1992). *Edge City* (selected chapters). Anchor Publishing
This book is the first popular analysis of the polycentric city. In it he defines Edge City in terms that are still used today. A fun read – there is a chapter on Texas.
- Glaeser (1998). “Are Cities Dying?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12(2): 139-160.
Describes trends in agglomeration benefits, pollution and congestion and finds the benefits of cities are growing at a faster rate than the costs.
- Glaeser, Kolko, and Saiz (2001). “Consumer City.” *Journal of Economic Geography*, 1(2001): 27-50.
A longer, more academic description of the Consumer City chapter from *Triumph*.
- Glaeser and Shapiro (2001). *City Growth and the 2000 Census: Which Places Grew, and Why*. The Brookings Institution Survey Series: Census 2000. Washington DC: The Brookings Institute.
Glaeser and Shapiro looked at the 2000 census right after it came out and looked at city features that seem to be attracting or repelling people.

Course Objectives

It has been said that the definition of a city is simply “a lack of space between people” and worldwide, over 50% the population lives in them. However, over most of human existence, there were no cities. Hunter-gatherer societies wanted to avoid population density to ensure an ample availability of things to hunt and gather. The object of this course is to not only explain why cities exist, but also provide you with the tools to be able to describe and analyze, from an economic point of view, the major forces shaping the development of urban areas and the spatial organization of economic activity in the world. As it turns out, while some of these forces work to increase urban density, others work in the opposite direction. Changes in the strength of these forces over time can largely explain changes in the urban form over time.

In his classic 1937 essay “What Is a City?” Lewis Mumford proposed a deceptively simple definition: “the city is above all else a theater of social action.”

In this course, we will start with the basics of why cities exist, and then move on to issues such as what determines city size, firm location decisions, urban growth, and land use. Finally, we will look at the affects of zoning and the subjects of housing and transportation.

Classroom Behavior

I hate to have this section, but I must. Basically, do not do anything you would not want your grandmother to see you do in class. That includes: no talking without permission, no eating loud or smelly food, no cell phone use of any kind (incl. texting), no computer use of any kind, no listening to music (e.g. via ipod) or any other behavior that would annoy your classmates or, more importantly, the person assigning your grade in the course.

Absences

I expect every student to be in class every week. Make-up exams will be given only with a written excuse for illness or a school activity. A note from your mother is not sufficient. If you are sick, please get a note from a doctor.

Grades

	4650	5750
Essays	10%	10%
Research Paper	-	20%
Mid-Term1	25%	12.5%
Mid-Term2	25%	12.5%
Final Exam	40%	35%
Summaries	-	10%

Essays

To provide an incentive to read Glaeser's "Triumph," short essays are assigned.

Essay 1, 2-3 pages.

"Three important functions of cities include _____, _____, and _____. And of these, the most important is _____." The essay should include a short description of the three most important functions of cities and an argument as to which is most important (there is no right answer to what goes in the blanks).

Essay 2, 2-3 pages.

"The government serves three vital functions in cities. These include _____, _____, and _____. And of these, the most important is _____." The essay should include a short description of the three most important functions of government in cities and an argument as to which is most important (there is no right answer to what goes in the blanks)

Summaries

Those in 5750 will need to turn in a 2 page summary of each of the five 5750 only papers. Each summary should include a description of the paper's hypothesis, the statistical results that support it, and the paper's conclusion. These summaries will be due on the Monday of each week the papers should be read.

Research Paper

For those in 5750, the paper can be either an economic history of a city, or you may pick another topic to investigate. I expect the completed paper to be 10-12 pages long. For 5750, I not only expect longer papers, but the papers should involve more, and more in-depth, economic analysis.

Research Paper

Topic with sources. 1-2 pages. If you are doing an economic history of a city, I'd like you to describe the city chosen and a description of the city in two years, at least 100 years apart (e.g. 1850 and 1950).

For other topics, you should turn in your hypothesis (either the argument you intend to make in your paper or the puzzle you intend to solve) and should touch on the economic analysis and evidence you will use to defend your hypothesis.

Introduction. 2 pages. Please turn in the introduction for your paper and list of sources. The paper should have at least 10 sources, at least half must be from sources other than Internet sites. If you are doing an economic history of a city, your introduction should explain the major economic forces that have affected your city. You will need to spend the rest of the paper providing evidence to support your argument. If you are doing a more traditional research paper topic, this introduction should explain your hypothesis, explain why it is interesting, and provide a roadmap laying out your argument.

I will read these introductions and provide feedback so that you can complete your paper.

Final paper due to Turnitin.com by 11pm (lose 10 points for every day the paper is late).

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change).

Readings are to be completed before class each week (except week 1, obviously).

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Intro and Axioms of Urban Economics Why do cities exist?	O'Sullivan, Ch. 1 O'Sullivan, Ch. 2
2	Triumph discussion	Triumph, Introduction, Ch 1, 2, 3, 5
3	Triumph discussion	Triumph, Ch 4, 6, 7, 8
4	Why do firms cluster?	O'Sullivan, Ch. 3
5	City Size Urban Growth	O'Sullivan, Ch. 4, 5 <i>Glaeser and Saiz (2003) "Skilled"</i> ☺
6	Urban Growth	O'Sullivan, Ch. 5 <i>Glaeser, et al. (1992) "Growth"</i> ☺
7	Mid Term 1 Rent	O'Sullivan, Ch. 6 <i>Glaeser, et al. (2006) "Housing"</i> ☺
8	Rent (cont.)	O'Sullivan, Ch. 6, Appendix
9	Land Use	O'Sullivan, Ch. 7 Glaeser and Kahn (2004), "Sprawl" ☺
10	Neighborhood Choice	O'Sullivan, Ch. 8
11	Zoning and Growth Controls	O'Sullivan Ch. 9 Fischel (2004) <i>Glaeser and Gyourko (2002), "Zoning"</i> ☺
12	Mid Term 2 Housing and Housing Policy	O'Sullivan Ch. 13
13	Housing and Housing Policy (cont.)	O'Sullivan, Ch. 14 Triumph, Ch 9
14	Automobiles and Congestion Thanksgiving on Thursday	O'Sullivan Ch. 10 Triumph, Conclusion
15	Mass Transit Parking	O'Sullivan Ch. 11 <i>Shoup (1997)</i>
16	Final Exam	Cummulative

☺ Readings for 5750

Cheating and Plagiarism

The UNT Department of Economics adheres to the University's Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism. To view the complete policy, go to www.vpaa.unt.edu

Cheating: The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:

1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
2. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
3. acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
4. dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

Plagiarism: Use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to:

1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

Disability Accommodation

If you have a disability for which you will require accommodation under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, please discuss your needs with me after class or at office hours.

The Economics Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have not registered with ODA, we encourage you to do so. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the 4th class day.