**Course Outline**

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

ECONOMICS 3823X1

URBAN ECONOMICS

COURSE OUTLINE

Prof. Brian VanBlarcom

Winter Term 2022

Tues/Thurs, 2:30 - 4pm (Slot 14)

**Office**: BAC 342, Telephone 585-1137

**Email**: [brian.vanblarcom@acadiau.ca](mailto:brian.vanblarcom@acadiau.ca)

**Classroom**: BAC 201

**Office Hours**: Office hours have yet to be determined. If you have questions, then feel free to send me an email or ask me before/after/during class.

**Text**: Urban Economics 8th edition. Arthur O’Sullivan, McGraw-Hill Irwin, 2012. ISBN 978-0-07-351147-4

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to urban economics. This class will use established economic tools/analysis to explain why cities exist, how /where they develop, and what forces underlie the distribution of economic activity. Also examined will be the determinants of land prices/rents, market failures related with land use and relevant public policy. The course will also look at urban issues such as congestion, housing and public transportation. These issues, as they relate to Canadian cities, will be the primary focus of this class. Prerequisite: Econ 1013.

**Schedule of Topics**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Topic # | Topic | Readings Text Chapter |
| 1 | Review of Microeconomics | Intro Text PPT |
| 2 | Intro to Urban Economics | Intro Text PPT, Chap 1 text |
| 3 | Why do cities exist? | Chapter 2 text |
| 4 | Firm Location Why Do Firms Cluster | Chapter 3 text |
| 5 | City Size | Chapter 4 text |
| 6 | Urban Growth | Chapter 5 text |
| 7 | Land Rent | Chapter 6 text |
| 8 | Housing/Policies | Chapter 15 text |
| 9 | Transportation (autos/highways) | Chapter 10 text |
| 10 | Urban Transit | Chapter 11 text |

**GRADING SCHEME:**

10 assignments@10% 100%

Below is the numeric/alpha grade used in this class.

Numeric/Alpha/GPA/Rating Scale

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A+: 90-100 A : 85-89 A-: 80-84 | B+: 77-79 B : 73-76 B-: 70-72 | C+: 67-69 C : 63-66 C-: 60-62 | D+: 57-59 D : 53-56 D-: 50-52 | F: <50 |

**Important Dates**

**Assignment Due Dates Are on ACORN. Late assignments will not be accepted.**

**Assignments are submitted via an ACORN “drop box.” All assignments must be typed or neatly hand-written. Diagrams will preferably be done on the computer (completed using Microsoft Word compatible software - Microsoft Draw/Paint or simply the insert shapes tabs on Word) but neatly drawn diagrams will be accepted.**

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Consult the following website<http://library.acadiau.ca/guides/plagiarism/student/> over what constitutes cheating/plagiarism and the university policies regarding cheating/plagiarism. The minimum penalty for any student caught cheating/plagiarizing will be expulsion from the class and a zero grade.

If you are a student with documentation for accommodations who anticipates needing supports or accommodations, please contact Marissa McIsaac, Accessibility Resource Facilitator at 902-585-1520, [disability.access@acadiau.ca](mailto:disability.access@acadiau.ca) or Emily Duffett, Accessibility Officer, 902-585-1823, [disability.access@acadiau.ca](mailto:disability.access@acadiau.ca). Accessible Learning Services is located in Rhodes Hall, rooms 111-115.

The Writing Centre offers free help to all students wishing to improve their writing skills.  You can sign up online today:

* To book a one-on-one appointment with a writing tutor, click here:
  + is English your first language?   [writingcentre.acadiau.ca/writing-tutorials.html](http://writingcentre.acadiau.ca/writing-tutorials.html)
  + is English a second language?   [writingcentre.acadiau.ca/esl-writing-tutorials.html](http://writingcentre.acadiau.ca/esl-writing-tutorials.html)
* To see which helpful presentations and workshops you might want to attend this year, click here:[writingcentre.acadiau.ca/workshops-and-presentations.html](http://writingcentre.acadiau.ca/workshops-and-presentations.html)