

# Course Outline

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

ECONOMICS 3823X1

URBAN ECONOMICS

COURSE OUTLINE

Prof. Brian VanBlarcom

Fall Term, 2019 Slot 10, Tues/Thurs, 12 noon-1:30 pm

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

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

**Classroom:** BAC 232

**Office Hours:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9 to 9:30 am and 10:30 am to 12 pm or by Appointment

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

## Course Description

This course provides 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, poverty, and crime. 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	Appendix, PPT Slides
2	Why do cities exist?	Chapter 2
3	Firm Location	Chapter 3
4	City Size	Chapter 4
5	Urban Growth/Rural Decline	Chapter 5
6	Land Rent	Chapter 6
7	Land Use Patterns/ Neighborhood Choice	Chapter 7- 8
8	Land Use Policies	Chapter 9
9	Transportation	Chapter 10-11
10	Urban Poverty/Crime	Chapter 13
11	Housing/Policies	Chapter 14-15
12	Local Government	Chapters 16

## GRADING SCHEME:

4 assignments @ 4%	- 16%
4 tests (@ 15%	- 60%
Term Project (10% paper, 5% presentation)	- 15%
7 quizzes (@ 2% each)	- 14%
	<b>105%</b>

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

## Numeric/Alpha/GPA/Rating Scale

Numeric grade	Alpha grade	GPA value	Rating
94 – 100	A+	4.33	
87 – 93	A	4	Excellent
80 – 86	A-	3.67	
77 – 79	B+	3.33	
73 – 76	B	3	Good
70 – 72	B-	2.67	
67 – 69	C+	2.33	
63 – 66	C	2	Average
60 – 62	C-	1.67	
57 – 59	D+	1.33	
53 – 56	D	1	Pass
50 – 52	D-	0.67	
0 – 49	F	0	Failure
	W		Withdrew

	S		Awaiting grade from special exam/incomplete
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## Important Dates

### Assignments

Assignment 1 Thursday Sept 19

Assignment 2 Thursday Oct 10

Assignment 3 Thursday Nov 7

Assignment 4 Tuesday Nov 26

### Tests

Test 1 Thursday Sept 26

Test 2 Thursday October 17

Test 3 Thursday Nov 14

Test 4 Tuesday Dec 3

### Please Note

**Students can work in pairs (a group of two) as it relates to the assignments.** Simply have both your names on the single assignment (do not submit two assignments) when it is passed in. Keep in mind that it is expected that all students have contributed to and have knowledge of, all questions on a given assignment. **Please note that all assignments must be typed (hand written assignments are not acceptable). 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.** Assignments are due (in my hand) at 3pm on the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted

There will be no advance warnings for the quizzes, no make-up quizzes will be written, the marks for missed quizzes are forfeited. The quizzes will be brief and based on recent material covered or assigned readings. These quizzes are designed to encourage (coerce is such a strong word) students to keep up with their reading and thereby promote class discussion. Students get to keep all the marks accumulated by writing quizzes and can therefore accumulate 14% from the quizzes. The syllabus sums to 105% so a portion of the quiz grades can be considered bonus grades. Keep in mind you can miss two quizzes

and still make 100% for a final grade. If you miss a test then you must write a replacement test/double the weight on another test (subject to approval of the instructor).

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)