

Course Outline

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

ECONOMICS 3823X2

URBAN ECONOMICS

COURSE OUTLINE

Prof. Brian VanBlarcom

Spring Term, 2018 Slot 10, Tues/Thurs, 12 noon-1:30 pm

Office: BAC 342, Telephone 585-1137

Email: brian.vanblarcom@acadiau.ca

Classroom: BAC 237

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 to 10:00 am, 1:30 to 3:00 pm, or by Appointment

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%
	105%

Important Dates:

Assignments, Tests and Term Project Dates TBA

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) with any diagrams completed using Microsoft Word compatible software (Microsoft Draw/Paint or simply the insert shapes tabs on Word).**

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 on Tuesday December 5. All students must write four tests.

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 a documented disability who anticipates needing supports or accommodations, please contact Dr. Abu Kamara, Coordinator, Accessible Learning Services at 902-585-1291, abu.kamara@acadiau.ca or Kathy O'Rourke, Disability Resource Facilitator at 902-585-1823, disability.access@acadiau.ca. Accessible Learning Services is located in the Fountain Commons, Lower Level.

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

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 - is English your first language? writingcentre.acadiau.ca/writing-tutorials.html
 - is English a second language? 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