

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Special Topics in Urban Economics**

Course Number and Section:

ECONOMIC

4491G 550

Instructor Name(s): Ian Herzog

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This seminar course will introduce students to specialized topics in urban and regional economics. We will begin by reviewing canonical models and concepts before engaging with contemporary empirical research in urban economics. Topics include local labour and housing markets, urban transportation, place-based policies, and relevant empirical tools. The goal is to develop skills needed to apply economic analysis to urban policy problems, pursue our own research, and communicate economic ideas and research findings.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand how to work with and apply foundational models in urban economics.

Become comfortable wielding empirical tools in urban economics and working with spatial data and maps.

Acquaint ourselves with academic literature and urban policy discourse.

Critically examine economic literature, prepare to conduct original research, and practice communicating economic ideas and research findings.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Lectures and discussions will mostly follow readings posted on OWL, but much of the theory discussed in class will follow:

Brueckner, Jan K. Lectures on urban economics. MIT press, 2011. (New paperback costs ~\$60 Canadian, used will also do just fine)

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
In-class contributions and three organized paper discussions		20

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Problem set 1	01/20/25	6
Problem set 2	02/05/24	6
Problem set 3	03/05/24	6
Lab assignment	03/26/24	7
Term project - prelim presentation		5
Term project - progress report		5
Term project - major presentation		20
Term project - final report		25

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Thursday, December 5, 2024