



ECON 4230: Urban Economics

| 2023 Spring Session | |
|---|---|
| Total Class Sessions: 25 Class Sessions Per Week: 5 Total Weeks: 5 Class Session Length (Minutes): 145 Credit Hours: 4 | Instructor: Staff Classroom: TBA Office Hours: TBA Language: English |

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the theories and concepts of urban economics. We will discuss why cities exist and grow and the forces shaping the structure and size of them. Two main aspects will be examined: urban issues such as crime, poverty, population, traffic congestion, land use and the role local government plays in urban policy-making and planning. Students will develop a deeper understanding of how cities function and the impact they have on the development of an economy.

Course Materials:

Textbook:

Urban Economics 8th edition by Arthur O' Sullivan.

Course Format and Requirements:

This course has 25 class sessions in total. Each class session is 145 minutes in length. Please do not use electronic devices such as phones, iPads, computers, etc. during lectures..

Attendance:

Your attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be recorded every time. Each student will have three (3) allowed absences, so no grade deduction will be made for the first three absences. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction in your participation grade, for instance from A- to B+. Your active participation in the class is expected and encouraged..

Course Assignments:

Readings

As a supplement to the textbook, additional readings will be assigned. Further information on this will be given in class. This assignment is not mandatory and does not count toward your grade. However, quiz and exam questions may be drawn from the readings.

Quizzes



There will be five quizzes in total, which count for 15% of the final grade. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. Please try not to be late because no make-up quiz will be given if you miss one.

Project

This is an individual task and must be completed by you individually. You are allowed to turn to your classmates for second opinions and work with them in certain areas. However, you must hand in your own work.

You are required to write a report in which you make comparison of two cities, one US city and one Chinese city, in aspects of size, population, economic structure, urban problems, and each city's advantages and disadvantages as in whether they enhance urban living or discourage it.

Guidelines on the project will be provided at the end of Week 1. You are encouraged to discuss with the instructor in the following weeks on the progress of your project, which will be due at the end of Week 4. You are expected to submit your completed work by the indicated due date.

Exams

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam throughout the session. Both are in- class, closed-book exams. Types of questions include multiple-choice, short answer questions, essay questions and etc.

Course Assessment:

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Quizzes | 15% |
| Project | 25% |
| Midterm Exam | 25% |
| Final Exam | 35% |
| Total | 100% |

Grading Scale (percentage):

| A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| 98- 100 | 93- 97 | 90- 92 | 88- 89 | 83- 87 | 80- 82 | 78- 79 | 73- 77 | 70- 72 | 68- 69 | 63- 67 | 60- 62 | <60 |

Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Chengdu University of Technology's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

**Special Needs or Assistance:**

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.

Course Schedule:

| Week | Topics | Activities |
|-------------|--|---|
| 1 | Introduction to Urban Economics Why Do Cities Exist? Why Do Firms Cluster? Agglomeration City Size | Readings Quiz 1 Project |
| 2 | Urban Growth Market Forces Urban Land Rent Land Use Patterns The Monocentric Models and Applications | Readings Quiz 2 Midterm Exam Project |
| 3 | Neighborhood Choice Zoning and Growth Controls Urban Problems Urban Transportation | Readings Quiz 3 Project |
| 4 | Traffic Congestion Air Pollution Crime Poverty | Readings Quiz 4 and 5 Project |
| 5 | Housing and Local Government Housing Policy Real Estate The Role of Local Government | Readings Project Final Exam |



| | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| | Local Government Revenue | |
|--|--------------------------|--|