Course goals:

1. Exposure to foundational and recent research related to transportation, mobility and urban economics in developing countries
2. Learn the workhorse empirical designs and quantitative general equilibrium models in spatial settings
3. Learn how to evaluate, design, and implement empirical designs and modeling choices in spatial settings
4. Design and present a research proposal, and give constructive feedback to others

Course format:

Lecture format with active student participation. Lectures introduce new concepts and study major applications. Section time is used to review key technical concepts and provide support for problem sets.

Typical enrollees:

Students must be pursuing a PhD in an economics-related field to enroll in the course. Prerequisites: graduate-level first year microeconomics sequence, graduate-level econometrics first-year sequence. If you have any questions about these requirements, please feel free to reach out (gkreindler@g.harvard.edu).

Students not meeting the prerequisites are welcome to audit the course. Auditors are gently requested to also complete the course readings, failing which they are (even more gently) requested to not ask clarifying questions in class, since the lectures presume that students have prepared by completing the necessary readings.

When is course typically offered?

Fall semester. Likely not offered in 2025-26.

What can students expect from you as an instructor?

My objective is to make classes a welcoming environment where all students feel comfortable engaging in open and constructive discussions and asking questions. This is how true learning happens. I ask you to support this by taking part and by honoring the perspectives of your peers.

I encourage you sign up to office hours to get a chance to know you and discuss anything broadly related to the course topics (and beyond).

Assignments and grading:

- (10%) Starred readings
  - See syllabus for starred readings before each lecture
  - Submit a short comment (~one paragraph) as Canvas assignment before 6pm (ET) on the day before the lecture (Monday, Wednesday)
  - Cover the following: Why is the paper important (or why not)? An overview of the core contributions of the paper. What do you think can be improved in the paper, are there any parts that are not convincing? Other comments (optional)

- (50%) Four problem sets
  - Late problem sets will not be accepted, and there are no exceptions to this policy. To accommodate any unanticipated events such as illness, or conflicts in your schedule, the problem set with your lowest score will automatically be dropped.
- (40%) Research proposal and presentation
  - Submit short (1-2 paragraphs) idea(s) by TBD and schedule meeting with Gabriel that week to discuss
  - Includes feedback on a peerâ€™s presentation

Sample reading list:

From last year: **Reading List 2023-24**

Syllabus:

To access the syllabus, click on this link: **Live Syllabus**

Absence and late work policies:

Attendance is not recorded. Late problem sets will not be accepted, and there are no exceptions to this policy. To accommodate any unanticipated events such as illness, or conflicts in your schedule, the problem set with your lowest score will automatically be dropped.