

# Urban Economics

## Introduction to Class

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# About Me



- My name is **Hussain Hadah**
- Email: **hhadah@tulane.edu**
- I am an labor economist
  - I study topics on discrimination, racial and ethnic identities, mental health, and immigration
- I love to run
  - You can find me running in Audubon Park with my dog Bill



- Student hours/office hours are by appointment using **<https://hussainhadah.youcanbook.me/>**



# Overview





# This Week

1. Introduction to the course
2. Geographical data

## Readings

- Syllabus
- OSullivan - Census Definitions

## What's due? !

- Scavenger Hunt---no due date and you can redo to improve your grade



# Introducing Urban Economics



# What is Urban Economics?

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- A lot of fields in economics overlap with urban economics
  - For example, economics of crime overlaps with labor economics and urban economics

# What is Urban Economics?

- Given how broad **urban economics** is, I will focus on the following topics
  - Geographical data
  - Agglomeration economies and the economics of cities
  - Economic development and tax incentives
  - Crime
  - Gender-based violence
  - Housing and housing policy
  - Zoning laws (maybe?)
  - Neighborhood effects
  - Transportation



# What is Urban Economics?

- This class will be a mix of **theory** and **empirical** research on urban economics
  - **Theory**: Applications of mathematical models
  - **Empirical**: Applications of statistical analysis



# Going Over the Syllabus



# Prerequisites

- This class assumes that you have taken:
  1. Introductory microeconomics (ECON 1010)
  2. High school algebra (solve for X, graph a line, etc.)
  3. High school statistics (calculating medians, ideally remembering the basics of hypothesis testing, etc.)
- It is helpful if you are familiar with statistics and econometrics, but it is not required
  - Knowing what a standard error and confidence interval are is helpful
  - The basics of linear regression

# Readings

The required book is Brueckner, Jan. 2011. Lectures on Urban Economics. Cambridge: MIT University Press

- Half of the readings are from the textbook
- The other half are from other sources or my lectures
- Some of the readings are technical pieces from economics journals
- The degree to which you to be familiar with the details of a paper will be clear from the emphasis given to the paper in lecture or will be clear based on instructions I give you

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- The degree to which you to be familiar with the details of a paper will be clear from the emphasis given to the paper in lecture or will be clear based on instructions I give you
- I will either send emails about the readings or announce in class
- It is your responsibility to keep up with the announcements, not doing so will affect your grade
  - Many in-class activities may require that you have read the readings before class

# Grading

- Quizzes(Best 3 out of  $4 \times 20\% = 60\%$ )
- Group Briefing Notes (Best 2 out of  $3 \times 10\% = 20\%$ )
- Other Activities (\$20%) (Three activities dropped)

Grade	Percentage Range
A	93% to 100%
A-	90% to 92.99%
B+	87% to 89.99%
B	83% to 86.99%
B-	80% to 82.99%
C+	77% to 79.99%
C	73% to 76.99%
C-	70% to 72.99%
D+	67% to 69.99%
D	63% to 66.99%
D-	60% to 62.99%
F	0% to 59.99%

# Quizzes

- There will be four quizzes
- During class time
- Tentative schedule is Feb. 8, Mar. 5, Mar. 28, and Apr. 25
- Quiz are open book, you can bring notes, documents, computer, etc.
- You cannot talk or work with other students
- You can take the quiz remotely as well

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- There will be two or three short answer questions
  - Zero to two multiple choice questions



# Group Briefing Notes

- There will be three group briefing notes
- The goal is to practice:
  - Concise writing
  - Citing sources, and creating a references section in APA format or Chicago Author-Year format
  - Doing a literature review using Google Scholar
  - Reading and summarizing published economics journal articles
  - Coming to reasonable conclusions based on your assessment of the research
- You will form groups of 3-5 students beforehand, or I will create groups for you randomly through a jigsaw activity
- The group will work during class time to write a one-page briefing note, single-spaced, in a Google Doc or OneDrive
- Guidance for the content will be given through handouts that are on Canvas beforehand
- The note will quickly introduce the reader to the topic and summarize the main findings of the research

# Group Briefing Notes Topics

1. To what extent do tax incentives encourage economic development?
  2. Is there racial bias in policing and in the criminal justice system?
  3. What are the impacts of rent control on housing markets?
- You will work on first draft in-class
  - You can finish on your own time if you did not finish
  - There are **NO** deadlines to submit the notes--- other than the firm end-of-course deadlines