

Urban & Regional Economics (ECO 490)

Spring 2022, 3 credits

Green Hall | Room 110 | TR | 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Professor: Josh Martin

Email: jmartin@berry.edu

Office Hours: 9:00AM – 12:00PM W or by appointment

Office Location: 314 Green Hall

Prerequisites

ECO 210 + Junior / Senior classification

Course Description

Urban & Regional Economics utilizes economic theory and real-world examples to examine major contemporary issues confronting urban and rural areas. At the most basic level, U&R Economics introduces space into economic models and studies the location of economic activity. The course will introduce theories of why cities exist, city location, city size, and the causes of city growth and decline. The course will also explore possible economic solutions to problems associated with housing, transportation, education, employment, pollution, and crime.

Course Textbooks

Arthur O'Sullivan: *Urban Economics* (7th Edition)

Edward Glaeser: *Triumph of the City* (2011)

Enrico Moretti: *The New Geography Of Jobs* (2013)

Expected Learning Outcomes & Assessment

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

- explain the foundations of urban economic analysis, being especially cognizant of the role that space plays in urban analysis
- discuss the process of urban development and change in the context of the foundations of urban analysis
- analyze and explain urban problems and potential policies in the context of the foundations of urban analysis

These outcomes will be examined by a formal in-class debate, presentations, chapter analyses and an in-depth research paper examining how Economics influenced the historical evolution a specific city or region.

General Course Policies and Expectations

- Students should attend every possible class meeting. Students are responsible for making it to class.
- Students should take thorough notes during lecture as I will not provide slides, notes, practice problems or analyses.
- Reading the assigned chapters of the textbook before coming to class is beneficial to understanding the material.
 - Please come see me during office hours if questions persist after reading the relevant chapter and attending the related lecture.
- Engaging in private conversations, eating or drinking in class, leaving the classroom unnecessarily or any other activity that creates negative externalities for others should be avoided.
 - This includes use of electronic devices in the classroom in a manner that is not consistent with the educational process.
- Students should check their school email regularly as email will be my primary form of mass communication with the class.
- Above all else, students will demonstrate respect for one another both inside and outside of the classroom.

Grading

Attendance

Opportunity costs are dynamic, and unpredictable events will happen to each of us as the semester goes on. Thus, attendance will be graded leniently with 108 points awarded to each student at the beginning of the semester. Students will lose points for each absence. The final score will be graded on a scale of 100 with attendance grades greater than 100 being converted into extra credit.

However, in order to disincentive long periods of consecutive absences, a non-linear absence penalty will be used. This penalty will take the form: $\Sigma 4^N$, where N = the students' number of consecutive absences. Missing one class will result in a deduction of 4 points, two consecutive classes = 16 points, three consecutive classes = 64 points, and so on. N will reset upon attending class. Thus, the formula used in calculating one's attendance grade is: $109 - \Sigma 4^N$.

Attendance grades will be updated online before the beginning of the next class. It is the student's job to alert the professor to any inconsistencies that you see arise within 7 days of the event in question. Attendance grades after this period are finalized. All medical, COVID or university-approved absences will be excused.

Chapter Analysis

The first three levels of Bloom's Taxonomy of learning are knowledge, comprehension, and application. The chapter analyses will ask you to apply the knowledge and comprehension gained from lectures and readings into an analysis in the form of chapter analyses of a book.

I have assigned Ed Glaeser's *Triumph of the City* and Enrico Moretti's *The New Geography of Jobs* for reading. Each student will select *one* of the chapters to complete an essay which both summarizes and compliments the source material by combining personal observations and experience with an understanding of topics explored in this class.

There will be a cap of two or three students per chapter. Availability is first-come, first-serve. There is a minimum word-count of 1000 words and a maximum of 3000 words. The analysis of *Triumph* is due on February 1, 2022 and the analysis of *Geography* is due on April 5, 2022. Both are due before class and you will be graded, in part, on your in-class participation.

Triumph of the City

Ch 1: Human Capital Externalities	Ch 6: Economics of Height
Ch 2: Urban Decline	Ch 7: Housing & Sprawl
Ch 3: Slums and Urban Poverty	Ch 8: Cities and the Environment
Ch 4: Economics of Density	Ch 9: Urban Success
Ch 5: Urban Amenities	Ch 10: Urban Policy

The New Geography of Jobs

Ch 1: American Rust	Ch 5: Mobility & Cost of Living
Ch 2: Smart Labor	Ch 6: Poverty Traps and Sexy Cities
Ch 3: The Great Divergence	Ch 7: The Human Capital Century
Ch 4: Forces of Attraction	

In-class Debate: Berry College Sprawl

Berry College serves as a *fantastic* setting for studying its land use. Students will prepare for a Lincoln-Douglas style debate where they will be randomly organized into teams which will take one side of the question of whether the campus is efficiently spatially organized. Students will prepare and submit a list of Economically rationalized arguments both in favor of, and against, the proposition. This will be due before class time on March 1, 2022.

Students will be graded upon their ability to demonstrate an understanding of both sides of the question. The incorporation of non-typical sources such as historical facts about the college are highly encouraged.

Research Project

Students will select one region or large city in the world to research throughout the semester. There will be 4 checkpoints which will have students incorporate what they have learned in class up until that point with what they have researched about the city and/or region. These will then be compiled into one final paper which will encompass how Economics influenced the historical evolution of a specific city or region.

Checkpoints:

1. Select your city / region. Discuss your reasoning for selecting it.
2. Discuss its spatial organization and land use rules and patterns
3. Discuss the history and impact of its zoning regulations as well as it's transportation networks and their effects
4. Discuss the history of crime, its housing policies, and steps taken by the local government

More details on the grading rubric and requirements will be handed out later in the semester.

Breakdown of Credit:

Attendance	15 points
Chapter Analysis #1-2	15 points
Debate	15 points
Checkpoints #1-4	5 points
Final Project	20 points
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Total	100 points

Grading Scale

Points	Letter Grade
90-100	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
< 60	F
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COVID-19 Policy

Berry is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Should campus operations change because of health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic or other campus-wide emergency, it is possible that this course will move to a fully online delivery format. If that occurs, students will be advised of technical and/or equipment requirements, including remote proctoring software.

In a face-to-face environment, our commitment to safety requires students, staff, and professors to observe the social distancing and personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines set by the University at all times. As detailed in the policy, students who becomes sick or are required to quarantine during the semester should notify the professor. Students should then work with the professor to develop a plan to complete the course learning outcomes while they are absent. Lecture notes will be provided in these circumstances.

Class Recording

Class sessions may (but likely won't) be recorded. Any recordings will only be available to students registered for this class. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

Adverse Weather Statement

In the event of inclement or threatening weather, everyone should use his or her best judgment regarding travel to and from campus. Safety should be the main concern. If you cannot get to class because of adverse weather conditions, you should contact your professor as soon as possible. Similarly, if your professor(s) are unable to reach the class location, they will notify you of any cancellation or change as soon as possible, using agreed upon methods to prevent students from embarking on any unnecessary travel. If you cannot get to class because of weather conditions, professors will make allowances relative to required attendance policies, as well as any scheduled tests, quizzes, or other assessments.

Academic Integrity

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, professors will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of their courses. This includes, but is not limited to, potential expulsion from the class and referral to the relevant University authority.

Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see your professor before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Accommodation

The Academic Success Center provides accessibility resources, including academic accommodations, to students with diagnosed differences and/or disabilities. If you need accommodations for this or other classes, please visit berry.edu/asc for information and resources. You may also reach out at 706-233-40480. Please note, faculty are not required, as part of any temporary or long-term accommodation, to distribute recordings of class sessions.

Academic Success Resources

Consultants at the Berry College Writing Center are available to assist students with all stages of the writing process. To schedule an appointment, visit berry.mywconline.com

The Academic Success Center provides free peer tutoring and individual academic consultations to all Berry College students. The ASC Session schedule is available on ASC Website: berry.edu/ASC. The goal of these meetings is to help students study smarter, not harder.

Mental Health

College students commonly experience issues that may interfere with academic success. Stress, sleep problems, relationship and social concerns, adjustment to college, financial problems, family issues, discrimination, or anxiety and depression all affect one's ability to remember, learn, and perform. If you (or a friend) are struggling, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Supportive resources are available on campus at the counseling center. For more mental health resources and information, visit their website: <https://www.berry.edu/student-life/life-on-campus/counseling-center/>

Schedule

Week	Date	DOW	Due	Readings	Topic
1	1/11/2022	T		Ch 1	Syllabus, Intro
	1/13/2022	R		Ch. 1	Intro
2	1/18/2022	T	Checkpoint #1	Ch. 2	Cities
	1/20/2022	R		Ch. 2	Cities
3	1/25/2022	T		Ch. 3	Clustering
	1/27/2022	R		Ch. 3	Clustering
4	2/1/2022	T	Ch. Analysis #1		
	2/3/2022	R		Ch. 6	Urban Model
5	2/8/2022	T		Ch. 6	Urban Model
	2/10/2022	R		Ch. 7	Land-Use Patterns
6	2/15/2022	T	Checkpoint #2	Ch. 7	Sprawl
	2/17/2022	R		Ch. 7	Sprawl
7	2/22/2022	T	Discussion	Research	Discussion
	2/24/2022	R	Discussion	Research	Discussion
8	3/1/2022	T	Debate		
	3/3/2022	R		Ch. 10	Auto Externalities
9	3/8/2022	T	No Class		
	3/10/2022	R	No Class		
10	3/15/2022	T		Ch. 10	Auto Externalities
	3/17/2022	R		Ch. 10	Auto Externalities
11	3/22/2022	T		Ch. 10	Congestion Pricing
	3/24/2022	R	Discussion	Research	Discussion
12	3/29/2022	T	Checkpoint #3	Ch. 12	Crime
	3/31/2022	R		Ch. 13	Housing
13	4/5/2022	T			Workday
	4/7/2022	R	Ch. Analysis #2		
14	4/12/2022	T	No Class		
	4/14/2022	R		Research	Housing
15	4/19/2022	T	Discussion	Research	Housing
	4/21/2022	R	Checkpoint #4	Research	Medieval Cities
16	4/26/2022	T	Presentation		
17	5/3/2022	T	Final Draft (10am)		