

EC2410 Urban Economics
Course Outline

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Brown University
Spring 2020

Course objectives and requirements:

This course is intended to train you to do research at the frontier of urban economics. The course work is organized around two complementary objectives. The first is familiarizing you with the field's main ideas and topics, e.g., through lectures, readings and problem sets. The second is training you to look for mistakes or omissions in the literature, i.e., research opportunities. You will practice this second skill by critiquing other peoples' work, by sketching out a handful of ideas, and by starting a research paper. You should plan to come to class and to hand something in about once every week. A rough accounting of time required for the course is as follows:

- Lectures: 3 hours per week for 13 weeks (39 total hours).
- Reading, class preparation, and problem sets: 10 hours per week for 13 weeks (130 hours total).
- Preparation of own research projects 25 hours.
- Total 194 hours.

Lectures:

Lectures are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-3:50pm in Robinson Hall #301. I anticipate missing three of scheduled lectures: Jan 23 (First day), either Mar 5 or 10, possibly April 2. Uncertainty reflects yet to made travel arrangements. I will update you as soon as possible and try to arrange make-up classes.

Course website:

The course website is at:

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew_Turner/ec2410/eco2410_main.htm

I will make course materials available, readings and problems sets in particular, through this site.

Office hours:

I will have office hours regularly during the term. For a schedule and location, please check this link:

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew_Turner/office_hours.htm

I will also, usually, be available to talk after class.

I will try to maintain a regular schedule of office hours, but will occasionally need to deviate from this schedule. In this case, I will make a note at the link above. I encourage you to check before you come to my office.

Grading:

In addition to lectures and readings, there are the following other course requirements with their grade-weights:

1. Three research proposals. These are 1-2 page sketches of possible research projects (20%).
2. Three referee reports. These are 1-2 page critiques of papers that I will suggest.(20%).
3. One more thorough development of a research idea, a term paper, of 5-10 pages (30%).
4. 3-4 problem sets (20%).
5. class participation (10%).

Academic misconduct:

Copying or plagiarizing or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Students caught engaging in these activities will be subject to academic discipline. The Brown University Academic code is here: <https://www.brown.edu/academics/college/degree/sites/brown.edu/academics.college.degree/files/uploads/Academic-Code.pdf>

Students with disabilities:

Please inform me if you have a disability or other condition that might require some modification of any of these course procedures. You may speak with me after class or during office hours.

Topics

A detailed listing of topics and the course schedule is available on the course website.



ECO2410 - Urban Economics
Spring 2020 Schedule
Professor Matthew Turner
Department of Economics
Brown University

- [Course description and requirements](#)
- [Office hours](#)
- [How to write a Referee report](#)

Announcements:

The following schedule describes the material to be covered during the term. You should check this schedule at least weekly for updates and changes.

Topic	Reading	Problems	Solutions
1. Introduction and some basic facts Jan 28.	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course description and requirements • Henderson and Turner, 2020 • Bryan, Glaeser and Tsivanidis, NBER 2019, 2019 <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacobs J., The death and life of great American cities. 1961. New York: Vintage. 1992. • Cronon W. Nature's metropolis: Chicago and the Great West. WW Norton & Company; 2009. • Glaeser E. Triumph of the City. Pan; 2011. 	PS #1 Due Feb 6	solution
2. Spatial equilibrium, Welfare and Capitalization Jan 30.	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes 1 		
3. Monocentric city Feb 4, 6.	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes 2 • Clarke, RSA, 1951 • Brueckner, Handbook Chapter, 2004 • Duranton and Puga, Handbook, 2015 (Sections 2.1-2.3 in particular) <p>Recommended:</p>	PS #2 Due Feb 13	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henderson, 1974, Chapter 1 <p>Extensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capozza and Helsley, JUE, 1990 • Breuckner and Kim, ITPF, 2003 • Wu and Plantinga, working paper, 2001 		
5. Bid-rent illustrated: Moncentric city with mode choice choice Feb 11	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes 3 • LeRoy and Sonstellie, JUE 1983 		
6. Agglomeration and urban form Feb 13, 20	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fujita and Ogawa, RSUE, 1982 <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucas and Rossi-Hansberg, Econometrica, 2002 • Ogawa and Fujita, JRS, 1980 	PS #3	
7. Spatial Equilibrium and hedonic regressions Feb 25	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roback, JPE, 1982 <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albouy, JPE, 2009 • Greenstone and Gallagher, QJE, 2008 • Bajari et al., AER, 2012 • Gamper, Rabindran and Timmins, AER, 2011 • Black, QJE, 1999, and see also Bayer, Ferreira and Mcmillan, JPE, 2007 		
5. Cities with discrete space. 'Gravity'. Feb 27, Mar 3	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes 4 • Heblich, Redding and Sturm, working paper, 2017 Newer version <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahlfeldt et al., Econometrica, 2015 • Allen, Arkolakis and Li, working paper, 2015 • Eaton and Kortum, Econometrica, 2002 • Donaldson and Hornbeck, QJE, 2016 • Dixit and Stiglitz, AER, 1977 		
7. Agglomeration Economies Mar 5, 10	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duranton and Puga, US, 2000 • Ciccone and Hall, AER, 1996 • Arzaghi and Henderson, RES, 2008 		

- [Greenstone, Hornbeck and Moretti, JPE, 2010](#)

Recommended:

- [Rosenthal and Strange, REStat, 2008](#)
- [Duranton and Puga, Handbook, 2004](#)
- [Patrick, Economic Inquiry, 2016](#) (Section 4 is the most interesting)
- [Duranton and Puga, AER, 2001](#)
- [Combes, Duranton and Gobillon, JUE, 2008](#)
- [Puga and de la Roca, working paper, 2012](#)

Reference:

- [Duranton, AER, 2007](#)
- [Couture, working paper, 2013](#)
- [Glaeser, Kallal, Scheinkman and Shleifer, JPE, 1992](#)
- [Rosenthal and Strange, Handbook Chapter, 2004](#)
- [Henderson, Kuncoro and Turner, JPE, 1995](#)
- [Rosenthal and Strange, JUE, 2008](#)

9. Systems of cities
Mar 12, 17

Required:

- [Desmet and Rossi-Hansberg, AER, 2013](#)
- [Henderson, AER, 1974](#)
- [Ioanides and Overman, RSUE, 2003](#)

Recommended:

- [Ades and Glaeser, QJE, 1995](#)

[PS #4](#)

10. Economic Geography
Mar 19, 31, April

Required:

- [Fujita and Thisse, Chapter 9.2 of 'Economics of Agglomeration'\(2002\)](#)
- [Donaldson and Hornbeck, QJE, 2016](#)
- [Artuc, Chaudhuri and McLaren, AER 2010](#)
- [Diamond, AER, 2016](#)

Recommended:

- [Suarez and Zidar, AER, 2016](#)
- [Rossi-Hansberg and Wright, RES, 2007](#)
- [Notowidigdo, unp., 2013](#)
- [Baum-Snow and Pavan, RES, 2012](#)
- [Lucas and Prescott, JET, 1974](#)
- [Helpman, unpublished, 1995](#)
- [Krugman, JPE, 1991](#)

[Final project](#)
Due May 15

11. Transportation

Required:

- [Duranton and Turner, RES 2012](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redding and Turner, Handbook 2015 • Allen and Arkolakis, QJE, 2014 <p>Extensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haines and Margo, NBER working paper, 2006 • Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the great west, William Cronon, Norton 1991 • Railroads and American Economic Growth: Essays in econometric history, Robert Fogel (any edition) 		
12. Migration (tentative}	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redding and Sturm, AER, 2008 • Blanchard and Katz, Brookings 1992 • Autor, Dorn and Hansen, AER, 2013 • Michaels, Rauch and Redding, QJE, 2012 		
13. Amenities	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glaeser, Kolko and Saiz, JoEG, 2001 • Sachs and Rappaport, JoEG, 2003 • Eid, Overman, Puga and Turner, JUE, 2008 <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glaeser and Vigdor, JPE, 1999 • McDonald et al. Conservation Biology, 2007 • McConnell and Walls, RFF working paper, 2005 		