

EC2410 Urban Economics
Course Outline

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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 writing 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 1:00-2:20pm in Smith-Buonanno Hall #G12. I anticipate missing scheduled lectures on Mar 3, and April 28. I will let you know in class and on the course website of other deviations from the regular schedule.

COVID:

I expect that many students will miss class this term because of COVID or quarantines. I am going to try to accommodate this as best I can. In particular,

- I will (try to) record lectures and post them to Canvas. Do not plan to rely on online lectures any more than absolutely necessary. My experience has been that technical problems wreck about every 5 or 6th lecture recording.
- If I am quarantined (but not sick) I will give lectures remotely via zoom. These lectures will be held in my personal zoom room, 'mturner1'.
- I will hold online office hours remotely, as needed.

I am open to other ideas. Studying urban economics during a pandemic will be a challenge and we'll have to work together to make it work.

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. A term paper, (30%).
4. 2-3 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.