
Geography 775
Seminar: Economic Geography
Urban Economics
Winter, 2009
Department of Geography
University of Cincinnati

Class Time & Place: W 2:00 - 4:50 p.m. at 402 Braunstein Hall

Instructor: Changjoo Kim, Ph. D.

- Office: 400B Braunstein Hall
- Phone: 513-6-3424 (office)
- e-mail: changjoo.kim@uc.edu
- Office Hours: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, and 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Thursday or by appointment

Geography Department:

- Main Office & Mail Room: 401 Braunstein Hall
- Phone: 513-556-3421

Course Prerequisites:

Geog341, Geog342 or permission by instructor.

Course Description & Goal:

Geography 775 is a 4-credit class that delves into current urban economic issues on research. Discussion of contemporary issues in the field of economic geography is addressed. It is designed to allow in-depth focus on current problems/issues that geographers will encounter in their professional practice. There are two main goals: [1] to review current urban economics research and [2] to bridge the research gaps from the previous research. Throughout the course, discussion will highlight issues of modern urban economics. Reading focuses on a wide range of urban economic issues and also current research that is within urban economics umbrella in case studies. The course is designed to connect abstract ideas and empirics. The general emphasis is on urban economics as an analytical framework that is useful in research. Students will pursue a research project relative to their interests. It is expected that graduate students working on theses/dissertations/proposals will use the project towards their research. At the end of the class, you should achieve goals of the course as follows: [1] familiarize with current urban economics issues, [2] understand and identify critical

gaps in current geographic researches on urban economics, and [3] implement analytical geographic skills in research projects.

Class web page: Blackboard, [09W_15GEOG775001: \(09W\) SEM:ECONOMIC GEOG \(001\)](#)

- The class information is available at <http://blackboard.uc.edu>. If you have never used Blackboard before, you will need to activate your account to receive your username and password.
- Blackboard class link: [09W_15GEOG775001](#).

Textbook:

1. Arthur Sullivan, 2009, Urban Economics (7th), McGraw-Hill Irwin, ISBN (978-0-07-337578-6).
2. Capello and Nijkamp, 2004, Urban Dynamics and Growth: Advances in Urban Economics, Elsevier, ISBN (0-444-51481-3).
3. Arnott and McMillen, 2006, A Companion to Urban Economics, Blackwell Publishing, ISBN (1-4051-0629-8).
4. Saskia Sassen, 2006, Cities in World Economy (3rd), Pine Forge Press, ISBN (1-4129-3780-2).

Course Requirements (Grading):

- Reading and Discussion (9 at 4): 36% - There are **9** reading assignments throughout the quarter. Every week, each individual needs to send the presenter and instructor questions related with articles.
 - Students are responsible to put the articles on the blackboard by Friday before class. (e.g. if the class is on 1/14/09, the articles should be available by 1/9/09)
 - Students are allocated to topics and required to submit the discussion questions to the blackboard by the midnight before class. (e.g. if the class is on 1/14/09, the questions should be submitted by 11:59 pm on 1/13/09)
 - The presenter will lead the discussion by summarizing the papers and trying to answer questions posted on the discussion forum.
- Presentation (1 at 11): 11% - Each individual will summarize a selected topic by summarizing the article and leading the discussion.
 - The presenter needs to include at least 3 peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters published.
- Final Project (1 at 50): 50% - There are two forms of final project that I will accept. First form is the thorough literature review. Second form* is the empirical study applied to real world situation.

*If the paper is ready to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals, an excellent grade will be granted.

Grading Scale[#]: http://www.uc.edu/registrar/grading_scale.html

- A = 93-100%: Excellent - Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- A- = 90-92.99%
- B+ = 87-89.99%
- B = 83-86.99%: Good - Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- B- = 80-82.99%
- C+ = 77-79.99%
- C = 73-76.99%: Satisfactory - Achievement that is in keeping with the course requirements in every respect.
- C- = 70-72.99%
- F = 0-59.99% or Failure for non-attendance: Fail - Working that was either completed but not worthy of credit, or incomplete.

[#] Undergraduate students will be graded differently using a different curve.

Graduating Senior: Graduating seniors should notify the instructor no later than the third week of class.

Make-up: No make-ups will be allowed without emergency reasons with written proof.

Final Exam: No final exam.

Comments:

- Cheating on exams, quizzes, or lab exercises will result in a zero.
- Students are expected to attend each class, and are responsible for their own notes.
- If you are having trouble in class, please come and see me.
- I truly believe that this course is two-way interactive class where we can ask and discuss each other.

Disability Statement:

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss his or her specific needs. Every attempt will be made to accommodate students with documented disabilities. If you are a student with documented disability, please see me as early in the semester as possible to discuss necessary accommodations. Please also contact the Office of Disabilities Services (See also www.uc.edu/equalopp 556-5503).

Citation Style

- APA citation style refers to the rules and conventions established by the American Psychological Association for documenting sources used in a research paper (http://www.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res_strategy/citing/apa.html)

Journal Articles Resources

- Journal of Urban Economics
(<http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/journal.cgi?issn=00941190>)
- Regional Science and Urban Economics
(<http://journals.ohiolink.edu/ejc/journal.cgi?issn=01660462>)
- Growth and Change
- Urban Studies
- National Bureau of Economic Research (<http://www.nber.org/>)
- ISI Web of Knowledge

Economic Data Sources

- Bureau of Economic Analysis (<http://www.bea.gov/>)

Geography 775 Class Schedule[#]: Winter, 2009

Week 1

Class1 W (1/7/09):

Introduction to Urban Economics

- Capello, R., & Nijkamp, P. (2004). The Theoretical and Methodological Toolbox of Urban Economics: From and Towards Where? *Urban Dynamics and Growth*, Elsevier.

Urban Land Use

- Irwin, E. G., & Bockstael, N. E. (2006). The Spatial Pattern of Land Use in the United States. *A Companion to Urban Economics*, Blackwell.

Week 2

Class2 W (1/14/09):

Suburbanization

- Mieszkowski, P., & Mills, E. S. (1993). The causes of Metropolitan Suburbanization, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 7(3), 135-147.

Sprawl & Accessibility

- Bruegmann, R. (2008). Point: Sprawl and accessibility. *Journal of Transport and Land Use*, 1(1), 5-11.
- Crane, R. (2008). Counterpoint: Sprawl and accessibility. *Journal of Transport and Land Use*, 1(1), 13-19.

Week 3

Class3 W (1/21/09):

Spatial Mismatch Hypothesis

- Holzer, H. J. (1991). The Spatial Mismatch Hypothesis: What Has the Evidence Shown? *Urban Studies*, 28 (1), 105-122.

Jobs and Housing Balance

- Gobillon, L., Selod H., & Zenou, Y. (2007). The Mechanisms of Spatial Mismatch. *Urban Studies*, 44 (12), 2401-2427.

Week 4

Class4 W (1/28/09):

Excess Commuting

- Ma, K., & Banister, D. (2006). Excess Commuting: A Critical Review. *Transport Reviews*, 26 (6), 749-767.

Urban Labor Markets

- Rouwendal, J., & Nijkamp, P. (2004). Living in two worlds: A review of home-to-work decisions. *Growth and Change*, 35(3), 287-303.

Week 5**Class5 W** (2/4/09):**Affordable Housing**

- Quigley, J. M., & Raphael, S. (2004). Is Housing Unaffordable? Why Isn't It More Affordable? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18 (1), 191–214.

Urban Housing Crisis

- Baily M. N., Litan, R. E., & Johnson, M. S. (2008). The Origins of the Financial Crisis. *The Brookings Institution*, November, 1-47.

Week 6**Class6 W** (2/11/09):**Urban Poverty**

- Metropolitan Policy Program (2008). The Enduring Challenge of Concentrated Poverty in America. *The Federal Reserve System and the Brookings Institution*, 1-220.

Public Transportation Policy

- Sanchez, T. W. (2008). Poverty, policy, and public transportation. *Transportation Research A*, 42, 833-841.

Week 7**Class7 W** (2/18/09): **Final Project 1st Round****Urban Agglomeration**

- McCann, B. T., & Folta, T. B. (2008). Location Matters: Where We Have Been and Where We Might Go in Agglomeration Research. *Journal of Management*, 34 (3), 532-565.

Urban Land Use & Agent based Modeling

- Parker, D. C., Manson, S. M., Janssen, M. A., Hoffmann, M. J., & Deadman, P. (2003). Multi-Agent Systems for the Simulation of Land-Use and Land-Cover Change: A Review. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 93(2), 314-337.

Week 8**Class8 W** (2/25/09):**Spatial Externalities, Knowledge spillovers, Innovation**

- Audretsch, D. (2003). Innovation and spatial externalities. *International Regional Science Review*, 26(2), 167-174.

Local Economic Growth

- Plummer, P. & Taylor, M. (2003). Theories of local economic growth (part 1): concepts, models, and measures. *Environment and Planning A*, 33, 219-236.

Week 9**Class9 W (3/4/09): Final Project 2nd Round****Urban Environment & Sustainability**

- Holland, L. (1999). Horse-power: Urban domestic recycling and the development of sustainable local community structures. *Sustainable Development*, 7, 47-53.

Urban Sustainability

- Spiekermann, K., & Wegener, M. (2008). Environmental Feedback in Urban Models. *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*, 2(1), 41-57.

Week 10**Class10 W (3/11/09):****Spatial Econometrics**

- Florax, R. & Der Vlist, A. V. 2003. Spatial Econometric Data Analysis: Moving Beyond Traditional Models. *International Regional Science Review*, 26, 223-243.

Week 11**Final* W (3/18/09): Final Project Due**

Class contents can be changed according to the instructor during the quarter.

* All assignments are due.