

<b>Urban Economics (ECON 4453-001)</b>
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**Instructor:** Prof. CL Rogers, [crogers@ou.edu](mailto:crogers@ou.edu), Rm. 423 Cate 1

**Office Hours:** Tues: 10-12 via zoom & by appointment. See canvas for link.

**Format: Course Meeting Days/Time:** M&W, 4:30 to 5:45 pm, 237 Cate Center 1

**Class Format**

Unless otherwise notified this is a synchronous, in-person course. This course is discussion and application intensive. You will be given short readings and/or assignments which will be discussed in class. ***Due to continuing public health concerns, please avoid in-person attendance if you are sick.*** Mask wearing will be encouraged. Reach out to me if you are ill so that we can arrange to keep you from getting behind.

**Course Description & Objectives:**

Why do cities exist? Why are cities located where they are? What factors affect city growth? What problems are associated with urban growth and what policies are used to address them? We will answer these and many other questions in our quest to understand the development of cities and the pervasiveness of urbanization. Our inquiry will start with the basic understanding of location theory, including how market forces influence the distribution of economic activity across space, how transfer costs and input prices influence firm location decisions, and how market areas determine the optimal distribution of production activities. Next we will learn how to apply and interpret basic analytic techniques using real world data on cities selected by students. In the final part of the course we will address urban policy issues such as poverty, unemployment, and housing market discrimination.

The main objectives of this course are as follows:

1. You will learn about the major issues addressed in the field of urban economics.
2. You will build on your understanding of economics by considering the implication of adding a spatial dimension to standard microeconomic analysis.
3. You will hone your analytic skills by gaining *hands on* experience collecting and analyzing data available at the US Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.
4. You will produce an original project using real world data to demonstrate your understanding of the basic tools of urban analysis, provide useful analysis for local policy makers, add contribute to your professional portfolio.

**Prerequisite:** Econ 3113 (Intermediate Price Theory) or special permission by the instructor.

**Required Texts:**

- *Triumph of the City*, by Edward Glaeser (Penguin Books, 014312049). A free PDF version is on CANVAS. You can grab a paperback copy from Thriftbooks.com and other outlets a few \$\$s.
- *Urban Economics*, by Arthur O'Sullivan (Irwin) – We will work from the 8<sup>th</sup> edition. See Canvas for free PDF version of the text.
- *An Introduction to Regional Science*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, by Edgar Hoover and Frank Giarratani, Web Book of Regional Science, Regional Research Institute, West Virginia University. Available at no charge at <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/rri-web-book/4/>
- *The Economy of Cities*, by Sanford Ikeda, The Independent Review, Spring 2020, Vol. 24, No. 4 (Spring 2020), pp. 605-618. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/48583526>. A concise summary of Jane Jacob's classic 1969 book.

**Online Resources:**

- [www.canvas.ou.edu](http://www.canvas.ou.edu) will have readings, Assignments, & other materials.
- [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) the final project will submitted to this site to discourage plagiarism.

**Special Needs:** "Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities." (- *Provost's Office*) Please don't hesitate to discuss problems or concerns so that we can create an optimal learning strategy for you. See University's accommodation policy below.

**Grading:** The grading scale is A: 90-100%; B: 80–89.9%; C: 70–79.9%; D: 60–69.9%; F<60%

Course Components (points)		
2 Problem sets (@10 pts =20 pts)	<i>Oct. 5, Dec 5</i>	10%
7 Applications (30 pts)	<i>See Canvas</i>	15%
Midterm Exam (40 pts)	<i>October 10, in class</i>	20%
Project Presentation (10 pts)	<i>Nov 16 &amp; 21</i>	5%
Written Project (50 pts)	<i>Nov 28, 11:59 pm</i>	25%
Comprehensive Final Exam (50 pts)	<i>Tues. Dec 13, 10:30-12:30 pm</i> <i>237 Cate 1</i>	25%

**Problem Sets** will include problems assigned from the text and based on lectures. These will be collected as a set before each exam.

**Applications** will involve applying concepts discussed in class to an urban area of your choosing. These will involve written and oral presentations and provide the stepping stones to your project. ***Sources of information and data should be carefully tracked and noted: plagiarism (intended or not) is unacceptable.*** There is a possible 35 points and only 30 counts for the grade. If you go over 35 that is extra credit.

**Student projects** will use data from the application exercises assigned throughout the semester to inform local policy makers about a policy in your project city. Detailed instructions will be provided on the course website.

**Midterm Exam and Final Exam** involve short answers, essays, and problems. Proper documentation should be provided within 48 hours of a missed exam for accommodation. This will draw from problems done in class.

**Bonus:** regular attendance (less the 4 absences) will earn a student 1% bump in final grade, active engagement will be rewarded with an addition 1% bump in the final grade.

### Make-up Policy

**Exams:** Accommodations will be made for documented, university approved absences (activities or illness, or COVID 19 protocols) with prior notification (or as early as possible if you are ill).

**Applications:** you may be given an extension if the absence is prolonged (these are assigned with a lengthy lead time). **Engagement:** for prolonged periods of absence, please see me for accommodations.

### Late Assignments

We will try to grade assignments within a day of the due date. If something unexpected happens and you want an extension, then your best bet is to reach out *before* the due date to discuss. Once the submissions have been graded, you will need to provide documentation to discuss a possible extension.

**Teaching Philosophy & Inclusion Statement:**

My goal is to encourage student engagement and application of core economics topics, through assignments, readings and in-class discussions. We will strive to build an inclusive, respectful learning community. Economics is all about accounting for different preferences. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have concerns about the class environment.

	Wk	Tentative Topics		
I. Introduction and Overview				
	1	22-Aug	Intros and course overview	L1
		24-Aug	US Census measures of urban, metro	L2
II. Theoretical Foundations/Market Forces in City Development				
	2	29-Aug	Foundation stones: Why Cities exist	
		31-Aug	Comparative advantage/trading town	App 1: pick city
	3	5-Sep	<i>Labor Day - no class</i>	
		7-Sep	Spatial Demand Curves (factory towns)	
	4	12-Sep	Agglomeration	App 2 City Dev factors
		14-Sep	Location Quotients & data	
	5	19-Sep	Where do Cities Develop? Ideal Weights	
		21-Sep	Median Location	
	6	26-Sep	Consumer Cities & Central Place Theory	App 3 Clusters and LQs
		28-Sep	Cities in a Regional Economy	
III. City Size and Growth				
	7	3-Oct	Why do Cities grow?	App 4 City Heirarchy
		5-Oct	Review	PS 1 due
	8	10-Oct	Exam 1	
		12-Oct	Incentives Competition	
IV. Models and Tools				
	9	17-Oct	Urban labor markets	
		19-Oct	Export Multipliers	
	10	24-Oct	shift share and growth	App 5 EB Theory
		26-Oct	Evaluating models	App 6 Shift share
V. Land Use Housing				
	11	Oct 31	Land Rent - leftover principle	
		2-Nov	Tall buildings, how high can we go?	App 7 Hot topic
	12	7-Nov	Why are rents so expensive?	
		9-Nov	Affordable housing/Guest speaker	
	13	14-Nov	Neighborhoods, amenities and poverty	
		16-Nov	Poster Session	Project Presentations
	14	21-Nov	Poster Session	Project Presentations
		<b>23-Nov</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
VI Transportation and Finance				
		28-Nov	High Cost of Free Parking	
	15	30-Nov	Can roads be big enough?	Project Due
		<b>5-Dec</b>	How do Cities pay for stuff?	PS 2 due
		<b>7-Dec</b>	Review	

## University Policies

### Copyright Syllabus Statement

Sessions of this course may be recorded or live-streamed. These recordings are the intellectual property of the individual faculty member and may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit, written consent of the faculty member. In addition, privacy rights of others such as students, guest lecturers, and providers of copyrighted material displayed in the recording may be of concern. Students may not share any course recordings with individuals not enrolled in the class or upload them to any other online environment.

### Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is incredibly important. Cheating is strictly prohibited at the University of Oklahoma, because it devalues the degree you are working hard to get. As a member of the OU community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the rules. For specific definitions on what constitutes cheating, review the [Student's Guide to Academic Integrity](#).

Shortcuts might seem like a good idea in the heat of the moment, but they will bite you. Everything you submit should be your original work, expressed in your own words. If you repeat someone else's idea or use their words, then you must credit the original author with appropriate citation. Unintended plagiarism is easy to do (and fairly common blunder). Not sure of the rules? If the idea was not in your head and you looked it up, then you need to give the source (even if it is from a text book or Wikipedia). Check out "[Plagiarism...and how to avoid it – 9 things you should know](#)." Pro-tip: keep careful track of "copied" materials and record references, links, webpage addresses as you find materials (this will save you time and headaches later).

Cases of academic misconduct will be taken seriously and handled according to University policies and procedures.

### Religious Observance

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty. [\[See Faculty Handbook 3.15.2\]](#)

### Reasonable Accommodation Policy

The Accessibility and Disability Resource Center is committed to supporting students with disabilities to ensure that they are able to enjoy equal access to all components of their education. This includes your academics, housing, and community events. If you are experiencing a disability, a mental/medical health condition that has a significant impact on one or more life functions, you can receive accommodations to provide equal access. Possible disabilities include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities, AD(H)D, mental health, and chronic health. Additionally, we support students with temporary medical conditions (broken wrist, shoulder surgery, etc.) and pregnancy. To discuss potential accommodations, please contact the ADRC at 730 College Avenue, (ph.) 405.325.3852, or [adrc@ou.edu](mailto:adrc@ou.edu).

## Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement

Anyone who has been impacted by gender-based violence, including dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, harassment, and sexual assault, deserves access to resources so that they are supported personally and academically. The University of Oklahoma is committed to offering resources to those impacted, including: speaking with someone confidentially about your options, medical attention, counseling, reporting, academic support, and safety plans. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, please contact [OU Advocates](#) (available 24/7 at 405-615-0013) or another confidential resource (see ["Can I make an anonymous report?"](#)). You may also choose to report gender-based violence and discrimination through other means, including by contacting the [Institutional Equity Office](#) (ieo@ou.edu, 405-325-3546) or police (911). Because the University of Oklahoma is committed to the safety of you and other students, I, as well as other faculty, Graduate Assistants, and Teaching Assistants, are mandatory reporters. This means that we are obligated to report gender-based violence that has been disclosed to us to the Institutional Equity Office. This includes disclosures that occur in: class discussion, writing assignments, discussion boards, emails and during Student/Office Hours. For more information, please visit the [Institutional Equity Office](#).

## Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact your professor or the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center at 405/325-3852 as soon as possible. Also, see the Institutional Equity Office [FAQ on Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights](#) for answers to commonly asked questions.

## Final Exam Preparation Period

Pre-finals week will be defined as the seven calendar days before the first day of finals. Faculty may cover new course material throughout this week. For specific provisions of the policy please refer to OU's [Final Exam Preparation Period policy](#).

## Emergency Protocol

During an emergency, there are official university [procedures](#) that will maximize your safety.

**Severe Weather:** If you receive an OU Alert to seek refuge or hear a tornado siren that signals severe weather.

1. Look for severe weather refuge location maps located inside most OU buildings near the entrances
2. Seek refuge inside a building. Do not leave one building to seek shelter in another building that you deem safer. If outside, get into the nearest building.
3. Go to the building's severe weather refuge location. If you do not know where that is, go to the lowest level possible and seek refuge in an innermost room. Avoid outside doors and windows.
4. Get in, Get Down, Cover Up
5. Wait for official notice to resume normal activities.

Additional [Weather Safety Information](#) is available through the Department of Campus Safety.

## Armed Subject/Campus Intruder

If you receive an OU Alert to shelter-in-place due to an active shooter or armed intruder situation or you hear what you perceive to be gunshots:

1. Avoid: If you believe you can get out of the area WITHOUT encountering the armed

individual, move quickly towards the nearest building exit, move away from the building, and call 911. 2. *Deny*: If you cannot flee, move to an area that can be locked or barricaded, turn off lights, silence devices, spread out, and formulate a plan of attack if the shooter enters the room. 3. *Defend*: As a last resort fight to defend yourself.

For more information, visit [OU's Emergency Preparedness site](#).  
[Shots Fired on Campus Procedure – Video](#)

### Fire Alarm/General Emergency

If you receive an OU Alert that there is danger inside or near the building, or the fire alarm inside the building activates: 1. *LEAVE* the building. Do not use the elevators. 2. *KNOW* at least two building exits 3. *ASSIST* those that may need help 4. *PROCEED* to the emergency assembly area 5 *ONCE safely outside, NOTIFY first responders of anyone that may still be inside building due to mobility issues*. 6. *WAIT* for official notice before attempting to re-enter the building.

[OU Fire Safety on Campus](#)

### Mental Health Support Services (required)

If you are experiencing any mental health issues that are impacting your academic performance, counseling is available at the University Counseling Center (UCC). The Center is located on the second floor of the Goddard Health Center, at 620 Elm Rm. 201, Norman, OK 73019. To schedule an appointment call (405) 325-2911. For more information, please visit [University Counseling Center](#).

### Dead Week and Pre-Finals Week Policies (optional)

During pre-finals week, all normal class activities will continue; however, no assignment, test, or examination accounting for more than 3% of the course grade may be assigned, unless it is assigned in advance of pre-finals week and worth less than 10%, or scheduled at least 30 days prior if worth more than 10%. No activity or field trip may be scheduled that conflicts with another class. There are some exceptions and nuances, so please review the [Final Exam Policies](#) prior to designing your course schedule.

### Land Acknowledgement Statement Provided by OU's Tribal Liaison office:

*Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the "Hasinai" Caddo Nation and "Kirikiriz" Wichita & Affiliated Tribes. We acknowledge this territory once also served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations. Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate Native people. The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma's 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgement is aligned with our university's core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up our entire OU Community.*