Course: ECON 6295 Applied Urban Economics
Section: Section 12, CRN 12683
Semester: Summer 2019, May 20, 2019 through July 27, 2019
Time: Thursday, 6:10-8:45 pm
Location: Monroe 351

INSTRUCTOR
Name: Dr. Daniel Marcin
Campus Address: Department of Economics
Suite 340
2115 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20052
E-mail: danielmarcin@gwu.edu
Office hours: immediately after class, or by appointment

GRADUATE ASSISTANT
Name: Mr. Feng Zhang
Email: zhangfeng@gwmail.gwu.edu
Time and Location: TBD Monroe 324

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will analyze the economics of cities and urban areas and consider the implications of the location of economic actors. This course will also thoroughly discuss the considerable externalities of cities, both positive and negative, as well as public policy issues to alleviate or encourage the effects of those externalities.

COURSE PREREQUISITE(S)
Intermediate-level microeconomic theory, intro-level macroeconomics, and ECON 6300 Mathematical Methods for Economics, or permission of instructor.

TEXTS
Carl P. Simon and Lawrence E. Blume, Mathematics for Economists, W.W. Norton & Company (For those students in need of a mathematics refresher)

In addition, we will work from various outside readings from the academic literature. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings before each class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
As a result of completing this course, students will:
1. be familiar with the rigorous treatment of Urban Economics, as it is used in both academia as well as in public policy groups, think tanks, and government regulatory bodies
2. develop intuition for location and other strategic behavior of economic actors
3. identify externalities that arise from location choice
4. use microeconomic analysis tools to evaluate regulatory policy
5. learn how to identify a research project and conduct a literature review

ANTICIPATED HOURS of WORK
Over the course of the semester, students will spend approximately 2.5 hours (150 minutes) per week in class; there are 9 class meetings. Required reading for the class meetings and written response papers or projects are expected to take up, on average, 7 hours (350 minutes) per week. Thus, over the course of the semester, students will spend approximately 22.5 hours in instructional time and 63 hours preparing for class.

GRADING
- Short Research Paper 20%
- Final Examination 40%
- Weekly Assignments 30%
- Class Participation 10%

Note: In accordance with University policy, the final exam will be given during the final exam period and not the last week of the semester.

Sketch of Topics
Below is an outline of the topics that we will cover. Minor modifications might be possible as the course progresses. A detailed course schedule is available on Blackboard, and you should expect that this will be updated along the way.

Topic 1: Cities and Models
Topic 2: Housing Theory and Policy
Topic 3: Encouraging Urban Economic Activity
Topic 4: Urban Development Strategies

CLASS POLICIES
Before The First Class
Please write a few paragraphs telling me: (1) why you are enrolled in the MA Applied Economics program, (2) what was your undergraduate major and why you chose it, (3) your career goals, (4) what you hope to get out of this Urban Economics course, and (5) anything else you’d like to tell me about yourself. Please bring a copy to the first class.

Research Paper Assignment
Students will prepare one short research paper (see course schedule for due date). This paper will be modeled on academic style economic research and will be on an urban economics topic. The paper should motivate a particular economic question, describe the related literature, and motivate and undertake an empirical analysis. A critical component of the evaluation of this paper will include its feasibility. Due to time constraints, there will not be a presentation.
Weekly Assignments
Weekly assignments will be due at the beginning of class, posted to the course website at least one week before they are due. These assignments will explore the topics from the upcoming class session, and therefore require that you read ahead. They will also reinforce the principles of microeconomics in you. You’ll thank me later. An answer key will be posted to the course website after the class in which the assignment was due. For this reason, **late assignments are not accepted**. You may drop your lowest assignment score. *I encourage you to work together on assignments, however each student must turn in their own version of the assignment in their own words.* This is the first assignment, which will count equally in weight to all others, and ensures that you have read the syllabus: send me a photo of a city via email.

Attendance
Each class will be centered on a discussion of the week’s assigned readings and assignments. Students are expected to complete the readings and assignments before coming to class and should plan to participate actively in class discussion. Participation in class discussions and assignments will contribute 10% of the total course grade.

Make Up Exam Policy
There will be no make-up final exam offered.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities.

For details and policy, see: [https://students.gwu.edu/accommodations-religious-holidays](https://students.gwu.edu/accommodations-religious-holidays)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “**Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.**” Please note that allowing another student to copy your work is defined as cheating under the Academic Integrity code.

Common examples of academically dishonest behavior include, but are not limited to
1) Cheating
2) Fabrication
3) Plagiarism
4) Falsification and forgery of University academic documents
5) Facilitating academic dishonesty
Sanctions range from failure of the assignment, to failure of the course, to suspension or expulsion from the University. For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in Rome Hall, 801 22nd St., NW, Suite 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information, please refer to https://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/

Students must arrange with the DSS office well in advance of needing the service.

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300
The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:
  - crisis and emergency mental health consultations
  - confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals

For additional information see: https://healthcenter.gwu.edu/mental-health
(Tentative) COURSE SCHEDULE: Updated 1/18/2019

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>5/23/2019</td>
<td>What is Urban Economics?</td>
<td>Brueckner Ch 1 Why Cities Exist</td>
<td>First assignment; you will find it if you read the syllabus.</td>
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<td>Five Principles of Urban Economics</td>
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<td>A critique of urban economics</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>5/30/2019</td>
<td>Monocentric City Model, #1</td>
<td>Brueckner Ch 2 Analyzing Urban Spatial Structure</td>
<td>Second assignment</td>
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<td>Gabax, “Zipf’s Law for Cities: An Explanation”</td>
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<td>Greenstone, Hornbeck &amp; Moretti. “Identifying Agglomeration Spillovers: Evidence from</td>
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| Week 4 | 6/13/2019 | Zoning Policy | Brueckner 4 Urban Sprawl and Land-Use Controls
Glaeser & Gyourko, “The Impact of Zoning on Housing Affordability”
Ihanfeldt, “The effect of land use regulation on housing and land prices”
Selections from “Other people's property”, Siegan, Bernard H.
Selections from “Zoning rules! the economics of land use regulation,” Fischel, William A |
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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| 5    | 6/20/19  | Transportation      | Brueckner 5 Freeway Congestion  
| 6    | 6/27/19  | Housing Theory      | Brueckner 6 Housing Demand and Tenure Choice  
Glaeser & Luttmer, “The Misallocation of Housing Under Rent Control”  
Glaeser, et al., “Why Have Housing Prices Gone Up?” | Sixth       |
|      | 7/4/2019 | INDEPENDENCE DAY, NO CLASS | | |
| 7    | 7/11/19  | Housing Policy      | Brueckner 7 Housing Policies  
HUD, QCT Map. [https://www.huduser.gov/qct/qctmap.html](https://www.huduser.gov/qct/qctmap.html)  
Banzhaf and Walsh, “Do People Vote With Their Feet? An Empirical Test of Tiebout’s Mechanism” | Seventh     |
| 8    | 7/18/19  | Public Goods        | Brueckner 8 Local Public Goods and Services | Eighth      |
| Week 9  | 7/25/2019 | Pollution and Other Negative Externalities | Brueckner 9 Pollution  
“Air Pollution in Cities,” Matthew E. Kahn, in “A Companion to Urban Economics” | Ninth assignment |
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Must be turned in by 7/27/2019</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Take home exam due at the end of the final exam period. Instructions via Blackboard.</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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