

Syllabus Urban and Regional Economics Fall 2017

Course Number:	Economics 3373	Professor:	Dr. Christian Raschke
Section:	01	E-mail:	Raschke@shsu.edu
Course Title:	Urban and Regional Economics	Phone:	(936) 294-4304
Prerequisites:	ECON 2300 or ECON 2302	Office:	SHB 237B
Lectures:	MW 11:00-12:20	Office Hours:	TTh 9:30-11:00 and by appointment
Location:	SHB 105		

Course Description: Economic problems of metropolitan and rural areas, location theory, regional resources, transportation problems, crime, and poverty.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, you will be able to

- describe the economic underpinnings of why cities exist and develop,
- use economic theories to explain factors determining size and location of urban centers,
- apply rigorous economic reasoning to assess the impact of public policy on urban economic development,
- assess the economic issues related to urban poverty, education, and employment.

Required Textbook: The following books required for this course:

- Jan Brueckner. *Lectures in Urban Economics*. MIT Press. ISBN: 978-0-262300292.
- Ed Glaeser. *The Triumph of the City*. Penguin Books. ISBN: 978-0-143120544.
- You should be able to find an inexpensive used copy of both books online.

Resources:

- Tutoring: Tutoring is available free of charge Monday-Friday, 11:00am-4:30pm in SHB 108.
- Department Website: shsu.edu/academics/economics-and-international-business/
- Department Facebook Group: facebook.com/groups/208741956458/

Evaluation Process: There will be two partial exams and one final exam. There will be several quizzes and activities related to the Glaeser book, as well as several problem sets. Each exam contributes 25% to your course grade. The total combined score from quizzes and problem sets also contributes 25% to your course grade.

The standard grading scale applies: 90%+ A, 80%+ B, 70%+ C, 60%+ D, <60% F.

Make-up Policy: If you will miss an exam for any reason, contact me beforehand with the appropriate documentation. If I determine that your absence is justified, we will make arrangements for you to take an alternative exam on an alternative date/time.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend all lectures and you are expected to participate in all class activities. Please be on time.

Cellphone Policy: Smart phones –or any other electronic devices not explicitly approved by me—are not allowed during exams or quizzes. Please put away your phones while taking exams. SHSU Academic Policy Statement 100728 states:

“Any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited, [...] Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty.”

Other Policy Matters: Please visit shsu.edu/syllabus to review university policies regarding:

- student absences on religious holy days,
- students with disabilities,
- visitors in the class room,
- and academic dishonesty.

NB: I expect you to conduct your studies with integrity. Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and the penalty for cheating is an automatic F in the course.

Tentative Course Outline:

- Week 1: Introduction.
- Week 2: Scale economies and agglomeration economies
- Week 3: Analyzing spatial structure: The urban model
- Week 4: Transportation and commuting cost
- Week 5: **Exam 1**
- Week 6: Congestion
- Week 7: Sprawl
- Week 8: Land Use Controls
- Week 9: Public Goods
- Week 10: **Exam 2**
- Week 11: Poverty
- Week 12: Crime
- Week 13: International Perspectives
- Week 14: Review
- Week 15: **Final Exam**