

University of California, San Diego  
Department of Economics

**Econ 135: Urban Economics**

**Fall 2009**

Prof. Michelle White

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TAs: Patricia Tong ([pktong@ucsd.edu](mailto:pktong@ucsd.edu)), Seq. Hall 225, for ofc hrs, see webct

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Class schedule: Tues & Thurs 12:30 – 1:50p in Center Hall 119.

Lecture notes, study questions, practice exams, readings besides the textbook, and announcements will be posted on the course website. Some additional readings besides the textbook (mainly news articles relevant to the course) will be posted during the course. There are also additional study questions and problems at the end of each chapter in the textbook.

The textbook for the course is *Urban Economics*, by Arthur O'Sullivan. I think that the latest edition is the 6<sup>th</sup>, but any version of the book is fine. The reading list gives the assignments for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> editions. The book is on reserve at the SSH library.

There will be an in-class midterm on Nov 5 and the final exam will be Dec 11 from 11:30-2:30 (the scheduled time). Both exams will be closed book, with no notes or calculators or iphones (etc.) allowed. Students must take the midterm and final at these times—please make sure that you will be in town!

Q/A sessions: Most weeks, there will be an optional Q/A session at 7p on Tuesdays in room 300 of the Econ Building. There will also be a Q/A session the evening before the final exam.

Office hours: please see the TAs if you want to discuss the study questions and see Prof. White if you have questions about the lectures or anything else related to the course.

Grading: The midterm and final will each count for 50% of the final grade. For regrades, you must submit a written request that explains why you think your answer was graded incorrectly. Requests must be submitted to the TAs within two weeks after the exams are returned.

Current events related to cities: If you see news reports that are relevant to the course, please mention them to Prof. White or bring them up in class. We will discuss them in class.

## Reading assignments

0. Review of microeconomics (this material will not be covered in class, but students will be assumed to know it!).

Appendix in O'Sullivan book.

- I. Why and where do cities develop? (week 1-2)

Chapters 1-5 in both editions.

- III. Urban land use, suburbanization and commuting (weeks 3-4)

Chapters 6-7 in 6<sup>th</sup> ed, chapters 7-9 in 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

- IV. Zoning (week 5)

Chapter 9 in 6<sup>th</sup> ed, ch 10 in 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

Glaeser and Gyourko, "Zoning's Steep Price," *Regulation*, Fall 2002.

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/regulation/regv25n3/v25n3-7.pdf>

- V. Urban Transportation (week 6)

Chapter 10-11 in 6<sup>th</sup> ed, chs 11-12 in 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

- VI. Housing, Segregation, and (maybe) Crime (weeks 7-8)

Chapters 8 and 12-14 in 6<sup>th</sup> ed, chs. 12-15.

- VII. Local Government (weeks 9-10)

Chapters 15-16 in 6<sup>th</sup> ed, chs 19-20 in 5<sup>th</sup> ed.