### Course Outline and Reading Assignments

**University of Colorado**  
**Economics 425/525**  
**Professor Singell's office:** 210 Economics Building.  
**Office hours:** 9-11, MWF; all others by appointment.

#### Course Description

Economics 425/525 is a one semester course designed to expose students to the central ideas and approaches of urban economists. Approximately one-half of the course is devoted to a review of the theoretical models developed by economists to identify and measure the impacts of a set of major determining variables on the size, structure, and performance of the urban economy. The other half is devoted to the application of these theoretical models to analyzing the current major problems of the city. The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical models as well as a capability to apply these models to actual problem areas.

#### Course Structure

The following is the proposed outline of topics to be covered and reading assignments. In general, it will be helpful if you read the assigned material before lectures.

The assigned textbook for the course is Heilbrun, James, *URBAN ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC POLICY*, St. Martin's Press.

- **September 5**: Introduction
- **September 7**: History of Urbanization (Ch. 1)
- **September 10-12**: The Context of Modern Urban Problems in the United States (Ch. 2-3)
- **September 14-19**: Location Theory: the Spatial Location of Cities (Ch. 4-5)
- **September 21-26**: Rent Theory: The Economics of Urban Land Use (Ch. 6)
- **September 28**: First Exam
- **October 1-12**: The Macro Theory of the City: Export Base Theory, Econometric Models, Input-Output, Gravity and Potential Models and Other Techniques of the Macro Analysis of the Urban Economy (Ch. 7)
- **October 15-17**: Economic Theory of the Local Public Sector (To Be Assigned)
- **October 19**: Second Exam
- **October 22-26**: The Case of Crossroads Shopping Center: Guests Mayor Ruth Conwell and Mr. Gray
- **October 29-November 2**: Urban Poverty and Ghetto Development (Ch. 8-9)
- **November 5-9**: The Problems of Urban Housing (Ch. 10-11)
- **November 12-16**: The Problems of Urban Transportation (To Be Assigned)
There are three exams scheduled during the semester, plus a final exam. Before each exam I will identify the specific material to be covered but in general each of these exams will cover the material from the book and lectures for that section of the course only. There are NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS. Students who miss an exam must take a comprehensive final examination.

The weight of each examination is as follows:

1. Each of the hourly exams will be weighted 25 percent, with a total for the three exams of 75 percent of your grade.
2. Final exam, 25 percent. (If you have missed one of the hourly exams you must take a comprehensive final rather than this hourly exam, and the score will be weighted proportionately.)

Note: If you have taken all of the hourly exams the final exam will be an hourly exam in which you will be presented with a specific urban problem and asked to evaluate and analyze this problem using what you have learned in the course. You may waive this final exam by presenting a 5 to 10 page typed/written paper analyzing some economic issue involved in the decision to extend the shopping center at Crossroads in Boulder. I will provide specific suggestions for this work but you are free to pursue any issue you like as long as you concentrate on the economic aspects of the problem. These papers will be due in at least draft form by December 6, 1979, and you may be asked to present your work to the class between December 7 and 14. Students who perform well in this part of the course may receive extra credit in the following way:

1. An "A" paper presented in class will add 12 points to the total of the first three exam scores.
2. A "B" paper presented in class will add 9 points to the total of the first three exam scores.

A 2-1/2 hour comprehensive final exam will also be given on the final-exam day. All students who have missed an hourly exam must take this exam. In addition, any student who wishes to raise his/her grade in the course, even after completing the paper and taking the three hourly exams, may take this final. If the grade on this exam is higher than the grade without the final, the student will receive the higher grade.