COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS
URBAN ECONOMICS
ECONOMICS 425/525

University of Colorado
Spring 1983

Prof. Singell's Office:
109 Economics Building
Office Hours:
8:30-9:45 MWF; all other 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 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 (second edition).

DATE TOPIC

Jan. 19-21 Introduction and Overview of Urbanization (Text Ch. 1-2)
Jan. 24-26 The Context of Modern Urban Problems in the United States (Ch. 3)
Jan. 28-Feb. 4 Location Theory: The Spatial Location of Cities (Read Ch. 5 first; then read Ch. 4).
Feb. 7-14 Rent Theory: The Economics of Urban Land Use (Ch. 6)
Feb. 18 FIRST EXAM
Feb. 21-March 4 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)
March 7-11 Economic Theory of the Local Public Sector (Reading to be assigned)
March 16 SECOND EXAM
March 21-26 Spring Break!
March 28-April 1 Urban Poverty and Ghetto Development (Ch. 10-11)
April 4-8 The Problems of Urban Housing (Ch. 12-13)
April 11-15 The Problems of Urban Transportation (Ch. 8-9)
April 18-22 The Problems of Urban Crime (Readings to be assigned)
April 25-29 Public Finance of the Cities (Ch. 14-15)
May 2 Review
May 4 THIRD EXAM
May 6 Future of the City
May 9 Review for Final Exam
May 14 FINAL EXAMINATION 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.
EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING POLICY

There are three hourly exams scheduled during the semester. 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, and have a legitimate excuse, must take a more comprehensive examination on that material during the final exam period. Each of these exams will count 25 percent of the students grade.

Students who take all of the hourly exams have the option of submitting a five (typewritten) page paper in place of the comprehensive final exam. This paper will count 25 percent of grade but an excellent paper can improve your average grade on the exams in the following manner: A, 4 points; A- 3 points, B+ 2 points. These papers are due no later than May 10, 1983. I will discuss the paper in greater detail during the course but an essential requirement is that you collect data to examine some hypothesis or theory from urban economics. If you do not select this option you must take a comprehensive final exam which will count 25 percent of your grade. If you have taken all of the hourly exams and satisfactorily completed (A grade of C or better) the optional project you may take the comprehensive final to improve your grade in the course. If your grade on the final in this case is higher this higher score will replace your grade for the hourly exams.

DROP POLICY

You may drop the course with a W at any time until April 5, 1983. After that date you may not withdraw. Incomplete grades will only be considered for students who have completed all of the work in the course and have an average grade of "C" or better.