URBAN ECONOMICS: ECONOMICS OF CITIES (ECON 4242)  
Department of Economics, University of Colorado  
Fall 2013

Classtime: M, W, F: 10:00 - 10:50 am  
Room: ECON 117  
Professor: Charles de Bartolome  
Office: ECON 203  
Office hours: M 4:00 - 5:00 pm; Tu 9:00-10:00 am;  
Fri 2:15 - 3:15 pm.  
e-mail: debartol@colorado.edu


Clickers Each student must buy a i>clicker. If you do not already own one, an i>clicker may be purchased at the University of Colorado bookstore. Clickers will be used to give class problems which will be scored.

Clickers should be registered at: myCUinfo.colorado.edu

Course description:
The U.S. is an urban country, with 80% or the population living in urban areas. This course considers the economic forces which drive households and jobs to congregate in metropolitan areas and thereby create cities. It then considers the forces within the city which determine how the established cities “look” - how rents vary with location, the distribution of jobs and households within a city, urban sprawl, and the sorting of households between neighborhoods. Finally it considers some government policies relating to land use and housing.

Pre-requisites:
Intermediate Microeconomics, ECON 3070;  
Introduction to Statistics with Computer Applications, ECON 3818.

Course Assignments and Desire2Learn:
All course assignments, problem sets and some lecture notes are posted on the Desire2Learn at: http://learn.colorado.edu .

Please note that six pages of each Adobe Acrobat file can be printed on a single sheet by clicking as: Print>Properties>Multipage>6

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Attendance at class:

Woody Allen once remarked: "90% of life is just turning up". The best way to learn the material is to attend class. Reading the lecture notes posted on the web is not a good substitute for attendance. Attendance at class is expected and required.

Administrative Drop:

Because attendance is important and is expected, I will drop from the class any student who neither attends one the first three classes of the term nor gets special permission from me for his/her absence.

Problem Sets:

Problem sets with answers will be posted for each topic. The problem sets are an integral part of the course. They are designed to help you use the material and a significant part of the exams will closely follow their format.

In addition, there are many questions at the end of each chapter in the textbook. I encourage you to work through the questions which relate to the material covered in class (I will post a list of these questions on Desire2Learn).

Grading:

There will be two midterms, a final exam, in-class clicker questions and paper summaries. Your grade will be determined as:

- 25% First Midterm
- 30% Second Midterm
- 30% Final
- 8% In-class clicker questions.
- 7% Paper summaries

Concerning in-class clicker questions. I will use clicker questions to reinforce the main point of a lecture. Each correct answer will receive 1 point and an absence or an incorrect answer will receive zero points. In calculating your total score for all in-class clicker questions, I will sum your scores for all days, omitting your three lowest daily scores.

Concerning the paper summaries. One of the objectives of this course is to introduce you to how economic knowledge is created and distributed (research). As a way of doing this, I will present some research papers. You are required to read the paper before I present it and complete a summary sheet which is to be given in before the presentation.
Exams:
The two midterms will be given in the evening as:

FIRST MIDTERM:  Monday 23 Sept 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
in EDUC 220

SECOND MIDTERM: Monday 4 Nov 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
in EDUC 220

The final exam will be held as:

FINAL:  Monday 16 Dec 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
in ECON 117

You must bring two blue-books to each exam.

Because this is a 4000-level class, the exams will not just repeat material covered in class. Some questions will closely follow the material covered in class and in the problem sets, but some will ask you to apply the material in a different environment.

Failure to be present at an exam:
If you are unable to take an exam because of illness and have a medical note from your doctor to confirm this, you may take a make-up. Otherwise, unless you have obtained my prior permission to take the make-up, failure to be present for an exam will cause your score to be 0 for that exam.

Classroom courtesy:
Please turn your cell ‘phone off prior to the start of class.

I believe that learning is enhanced if there is full concentration by both the instructor and the student. To facilitate this, laptops may only be used in the front two rows of the classroom and usage of laptops in class is restricted to following the course notes.

Students with Special Needs:
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671; Center for Community Building, Room N200; or by email at: dsinfo@colorado.edu

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, please see the guidelines at
Temporary Medical Conditions: Injuries, Surgeries and Illnesses under Quick Links at Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me.

Disability Services’ letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at: http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices.

**Discrimination and Harassment Policy:**

The University of Colorado at Boulder is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/08/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, “Protected Classes” refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at (303) 492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at (303) 492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh.

**Religious Observances:**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please let me know in a timely manner if one of the exam dates falls on a religious holiday you intend to observe and I will arrange for you to take a make-up. See policy details at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

**Classroom Behavior:**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly
honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

**Academic Integrity:**

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/
# COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>26, 28 Aug</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fundamental Questions of Urban Economics</td>
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<td>The need for a model</td>
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<td>Descriptions of urban areas</td>
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<td>“Five Axioms of Urban Economics”</td>
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<td>Discussion of regression analysis</td>
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<td>- the hedonic regression of house prices</td>
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<td><strong>2. THE REASON FOR CITIES</strong></td>
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<td>4, 6, 9 Sept</td>
<td>THE EXISTENCE OF CITIES</td>
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<td>The importance of returns to scale</td>
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<td>Trade, factory and resource cities</td>
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<td><em>Problem Set: Trade Cities</em></td>
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<td><em>Problem Set: Factory Cities</em></td>
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<td><em>Problem Set: Resource Cities</em></td>
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<td>11, 13 Sept</td>
<td>THE EXISTENCE OF CITIES: CLUSTERING</td>
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<td>Why firms cluster</td>
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<td>- localization economies</td>
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<td>- urbanization economics</td>
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<td>Why households cluster</td>
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<td><em>Problem Set: Labor Pooling</em></td>
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<td><em>Problem Set: Matching</em></td>
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### 3. METROPOLITAN POLICY: POPULATION AND JOBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18, 20 Sept</td>
<td>CITY SIZE</td>
<td>Rank-Population Rule</td>
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<td>Central Place Theory</td>
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<td>Optimal City Size</td>
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<td>Equilibrium City Size</td>
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<td>23 Sept</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>FIRST MIDTERM (7-9pm in EDUC 220)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25, 27, 30 Sept</td>
<td>URBAN GROWTH</td>
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<td>2 Oct</td>
<td>Role of human capital</td>
<td>(omit Appendix)</td>
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<td>Urban growth</td>
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<td>Employment multiplier</td>
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*Problem Set:* City size  
*Problem Set:* Metropolitan Development Policy

### 4. SPATIAL STRUCTURE OF CITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7, 9, 11, 14</td>
<td>SPATIAL MAKE-UP OF A CITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>16, 18 Oct</td>
<td>Capitalization</td>
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<td>“Left-over principle”</td>
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<td>Bid-rent for agriculture</td>
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<td>Bid-rent for manufacturing firms</td>
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<td>Bid-rent for offices</td>
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<td>- substitution into higher buildings</td>
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<td>Bid rent for households</td>
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<td>- substitution into apartments</td>
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<td>Bid-rent curves and land-use patterns</td>
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*Problem Set:* Office Travel Costs  
*Problem Set:* Office Bid-Rent  
*Problem Set:* Residential Bid-Rent  
*Problem Set:* Using Bid-Rent Curves
21, 23 Oct LAND USE PATTERNS
Monocentric city
“Edge Cities”
Policy: land-use zoning
Urban sprawl
Limiting growth
- urban growth boundary
- limiting building permits
- development fees

*Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 19, 569-586

5. MAKE-UP OF COMMUNITIES/NEIGHBORHOODS

28, 30 Oct SORTING
1 Nov Income sorting
Public good/public service sorting
Socio-economic sorting

*Problem Set*: Income Sorting
*Problem Set*: Socio-Economic Sorting

4 Nov Review
SECOND MIDTERM (7-9p.m. in EDUC 220)

6, 8 Nov ZONING
Space externality
Fiscal zoning

*Problem Set*: Min Lot Size Zoning
6. HOUSING

11,13,15 WHY IS HOUSING DIFFERENT 14
18 Nov Durability
- deterioration and maintenance
Filtering model

20, 22 Nov HOUSING POLICY 15
Supply side
- public housing
- subsidies for private housing (Sections 236 and 8)
- low-income housing tax credit
Demand side
- housing vouchers
Community development
Mortgage deduction

Problem Set: Evaluating a housing program.


7. MASS TRANSIT

4, 6, 9 Dec Ridership sensitivity 11
Ridership sensitivity
System choice
Subsidies


Problem Set : Ridership Sensitivity

13 Dec Review

16 Dec FINAL EXAM (4:30 - 7:00 p.m. in ECON 117)