ECON 4480 – URBAN AND REGIONAL ECONOMICS
INSTRUCTOR: William J. Smith
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OFFICE: 1303 Business
HOURS: Office Hours: RCOB 1303
In Person 7am – 8am T
3:20pm-8:20pm T
Email/Phone Friday 8am-12pm (noon)
Other times by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the nature of urban areas and regions. Topics include size and distribution of cities, location decisions of households and firms, housing and real estate markets, transportation, urban problems, and regional growth and development.

PREREQUISITES: ECON 2105 and ECON 2106.

TEXT: Arthur O'Sullivan Urban Economics (edition 5 or later).

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL: Videos and online readings. Links provided in coursesden.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is strongly recommended. Students are responsible for all announcements and material covered in class. Those not attending class regularly will receive little consideration in regard to individual instruction, borderline grade decisions, classroom participation points etc. Participation in University sponsored activities is encouraged; however, in the event that a university sponsored activity conflicts with a graded assignment/test in this class, the participating student is required to inform me of the situation PRIOR to the event. If arrangements for making up the missed work are not made prior to the anticipated absence, a grade of “0” will be entered for the missed assignment. The word “prior” means a reasonable period before the event. An example of an UNREASONABLY short prior notice includes (but, is not limited to) calling my office the night before and leaving a message that you will not be able to make the test tomorrow morning. The word “arrangement” means that I have agreed to a plan. If I haven’t given you the “OK,” we DO NOT have an “arrangement.” I understand that there are sometimes extenuating circumstances. I will deal with these on a case-by-case basis.

CORRESPONDANCE: To limit the possibility of disseminating personal and/or confidential information to unauthorized individuals, I will only answer emails that originate from your official MyUWG email account. Furthermore, I will make all official email announcements via MyUWG. Do not ask for grade information through any other email account.

EVALUATION: Two in-class exams will be given worth 30% each (totaling 60%). Online evaluations (quizzes/assignments) will be given, and they will combine for another 25%. A research paper 15% will come from a research paper (topics to be determined). See the Course Outline for the topics covered on each exam.

CHEATING: Academic dishonesty (including plagiarism) will result in an F for the course, a note recording the incident on the student's permanent record, and the student reported to the Vice-President of Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action by the University.

WITHDRAWS: A student who withdraws during the first half of the term will receive an automatic W. A student who withdraws after the final date to drop with a W will receive a WF unless the student is administratively withdrawn from the University (see UWG calendar). The student is fully responsible for formally withdrawing from the course by the official date. If the student does not formally withdraw, the instructor will assume the student is still in the course and assign a grade of F for the final course grade.

INCOMPLETES: A student will not be given the grade I unless non-academic circumstances beyond the student's control occur prevent the student from completing a small segment of the course such as the final exam. For a student to receive an Incomplete he or she must be doing passing work up to the point that he or she can't continue. The Dean must approve all Incompletes.
Course Outline: I will be making assignments on a weekly basis throughout the semester that helps answer aspect of the following urban economic questions. Each Monday for 10 weeks you will receive a set of materials related to the urban questions below, along with an assignment or quiz. Each of the questions below will be the subject matter of a module on CourseDen (D2L).

Introduction to Urban and Regional Economics

1) What is urban economics?
2) Why do cities exist?
3) Why Do Firms Cluster?
4) What determines city size and urban growth?

Market Forces in the Development of Cities
Land Rent and Land-Use Patterns

Midterm Exam – 30% (in person DATE TBA)

5) What Determines Land Rent and Land Use?
6) Why Do Cities use Zoning and Growth Controls?
7) How do we choose where we live?
8) What are some past and current housing issues?
9) How do we deal with transportation issues (externalities from autos, mass transit, etc)?
10) What are the roles of government?

Final Exam – 30% (in person DATE TBA)

Quizzes – 20%

Research Paper - 15% (due 1 week before the final exam)

Participation – 5%

Expected Learning Outcomes

Students will obtain an overview of the scope and method of urban and regional economics. (LO9, LO10, LO13)

Students will develop an understanding of the economic reasons for cities. (LO9)

Students will recall what agglomeration economies are and how they affect the economic behavior of households and firms. (LO9)

Students will recall how scale economies and transportation costs affect the market areas of firms. (LO9)

Students will recall what influences the location decisions of firms. (LO9)

Students will demonstrate the ability to perform an economic base study. (LO3, LO5, LO8)

Students will demonstrate the ability to locate and use data to analyze the economic performance of various economic regions. (LO2, LO11)

Students will recall what land rent represents and develop an appreciation for its role in determining land use. (LO9, LO10, LO13)

Students will relate land rent to the location of economic activity in urban areas and be able to explain why location patterns have changed over time. (LO9)

Students will recall why cities use land use controls and the market effects of controls. (LO9, LO10, LO13)
Students will recall transportation problems related to autos and highways and possible economic approaches to solving those problems. (LO9, LO10, LO13)

Students will recall the problems and prospects for mass transit. (LO9, LO10, LO13)

Students will recall the causes and consequences of urban poverty. (LO9, LO10, LO13)

Students will develop an understanding of the economic approach to crime and crime prevention. (LO9, LO10, LO13)

Students will demonstrate a fuller understanding of a particular urban economic problem by completing a research paper on a topic of their choice. (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO10, LO13)

Affirmative Action: University of West Georgia adheres to affirmative action policies to promote diversity and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Center for Disability Services. A CDS Counselor will coordinate those services. See http://www.westga.edu/~dserve/

Equal Opportunity: No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by UWG.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus at any time during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class and by email. The ***Preliminary*** Class Schedule outlined below is PRELIMINARY; however, every effort will be made to adhere to the schedule. Any changes will be announced and emailed to the class.

**Final Exam Schedule**
**Tuesday/Thursday Class Periods**
8:00-9:20 classes.................Tuesday, Apr 22, 8:00-10:30 am
9:30-10:50 classes...............Thursday, Apr 24, 8:00-10:30 am
11:00-12:20 classes..............**Tuesday, Apr 22, 11:00-1:30 pm**
12:30-1:50 classes...............Thursday, Apr 24, 11:00-1:30 pm
2:00-3:20 classes...............Tuesday, Apr 22, 2:00-4:30 pm
3:30-4:50 classes...............Thursday, Apr 24, 2:00-4:30 pm