

Economics 307 – Section 01

Urban Economics

Spring 2023

Lecture Info: In-Person | MWF | 9:00 AM to 9:50 AM | Tate Center, Room 131

Professor: Dr. Chris Mothorpe | 403 Beatty | (843) 953-7273 | E-mail: MothorpeCA@CofC.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesdays 1 PM to 3 PM in-person or via zoom. Zoom meetings require an appointment to be made through *Book with Me* ([Book time with Mothorpe, Chris](#)) and are to be made 24 hours in advance.

CONTACT AND EMAIL POLICY

The best time to reach me is in-person before or after class.

I check my email three times a day: 1) in the morning; 2) at lunch time; 3) near close of business. It may take up to two business days for me to respond.

Ask THREE then me

If you have a question, please check three sources before asking me. For example, if you're having a technical problem try Google, Student Computing (<https://it.cofc.edu/help/studentcomputing.php>), a fellow student, the IT Service Desk (843-953-3375 or itservicedesk@cofc.edu) and THEN me. If you do not understand a concept then try your notes, the textbook, a fellow student and THEN me. Having trouble understanding what comes next in the course? Try the syllabus, a fellow student, OAKS and THEN me.

Student Outcomes

Course Description: This upper level microeconomic course introduces students to the core concepts, analytic techniques, and research areas in Urban Economics. The course focuses on providing theoretical and empirical framework to analyze contemporary urban issues.

Course Catalog Description: An examination of the economics of spatial organization focusing on the location of economic activity and the growth of cities and regions. This course will provide a theoretical and empirical basis for analyzing contemporary urban issues.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe economic concepts behind city formation and growth
2. Analyze urban spatial structure using the supply and demand model
3. Analyze urban spatial economic trends using data and regression analysis
4. Analyze contemporary urban issues such a traffic congestion and housing policies
5. Demonstrate versatile and competent written, oral, and digital communication skills

School of Business Learning Goals Addressed in the Course:

1. **Quantitative Fluency:** *Demonstrate competency in logical reasoning and data analysis skills.* Students will apply optimization techniques and economic concepts (supply and demand model, marginal analysis, etc.) to analyze why cities exist, how cities grow, and how different economic factors influence the location decisions of a city's residents.
2. **Global and Civic Responsibility:** *Students identify and define social, ethical, environmental, and economic challenges at the local, national, and international levels. Students integrate knowledge and skills in addressing these issues.* Apply economic techniques to analyze local, national and global case studies covering topics related to urban economics and U.S. housing policy. Each student will display their understanding of the relationship between economic concept and global issues through homework problem sets.

This course is designed for Economics, Real Estate and Urban Studies majors. Topics covered in the course follow those in the textbook. We will cover most or all of these issues:

- The Spatial Equilibrium Concept
- The Economic Reasons Cities Exist
- The Economics of Traffic Congestion
- The Spatial Layout and Organization of Cities
- U.S. Housing Policy

Course Information

Course Pre-Requisites

The pre-requisites for the course are:

- Econ 200 (Principles of Microeconomics)
- Econ 201 (Principles of Macroeconomics)
- Math 116 (Calculus for Business and Social Sciences) **OR** Math 120 (Introductory Calculus)

Upon entering the class students are expected to have mastered the following economic concepts:

- Marginal Analysis
- The Supply and Demand Model (demand curve, supply curve, equilibrium, market adjustment mechanism, shifts in demand, shifts in supply, consumer surplus, producer surplus and dead weight loss)
- Cost Curves

Required Textbook and Readings:

Lectures on Urban Economics by Jan K. Brueckner. Print ISBN: 9780262300308; Electronic ISBS: 9780262300308. This book is available online through the Addlestone Library for free.

The content of this class represents a combination of topics across a variety of topics. In addition to the required textbook, required readings will also be posted on Oaks. Required readings are indicated on the course schedule.

Required Software:

Microsoft Excel

This class requires students to utilize regression analysis. During lecture, Microsoft Excel will be employed to illustrate concepts. Microsoft Excel is available on all campus computers.

OAKS

OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted. You can access OAKS through your MyCharleston page at <https://my.cofc.edu> . You are responsible for checking OAKS regularly for announcements and instructions regarding class.

Student Assessment

Students' knowledge and retention of course material will be assessed using quizzes, homework assignments and a final exam.

Quizzes: Quizzes consist of a series of questions regarding material covered over the past week and are intended to be lower stakes practice problems and review. Quizzes will be given through OAKS and will be untimed. The lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped from grade calculations.

Homework: Homework consists of a series of in-depth problems covering material from (roughly) the previous 1 to 2 weeks. Homework submissions are to be submitted through the corresponding OAKS assignment folder.

Final Exam: There is a cumulative, take home final exam.

Final grades will be assigned using the following percentages:

Type	Due Date	Weight	# of Assignments	Weight Per Assignment
Quiz	Monday @ 11:59 PM	30	12 (14 total; 2 dropped)	2.5
Homework	Fridays @ 5 PM	40	9	4.4
Final Exam	5/3 @ 11:59 PM	30	1	30

Students are responsible for checking their grades posted on Oaks. When an error is found in the Oaks grade, you should contact me as soon as possible with the hard copy of your graded work.

Attendance

I will take attendance at the beginning of each class period; however, attendance does not factor into a student's grade. Research has shown that there is a positive correlation between attendance and overall student outcome in the course; therefore, I encourage students to attend all lectures.

Make Up Work

- I automatically drop the two lowest quiz grades.
- If a student cannot complete the work due to a valid excuse (e.g. illness, family emergency), then the weight will be shifted to the remaining assignments. Documentation of valid excuses should be sent via email.
- If a student misses a sufficient number of assignments, defined to be more than 1/3 within any category, then Dr. Mothorpe will recommend the student withdraws from the class. Students who do not withdraw will be assigned an "F".

Information Retention

Research has shown that students learn and retain information if the information is reviewed frequently; therefore, students are **expected to spend at least three hours out-of-class each week** reviewing class material. A recommendation strategy to follow is 25 minutes a night Sunday through Thursday (125 minutes) and 30 minutes prior to class on Tuesdays and Thursdays (60 minutes). Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to create a study guide following the Econ 200 Review Sheet, which is posted on OAKS. Note that the Review sheet will be updated throughout the semester. Students are strongly encouraged to update their study guide as new material is discussed and review it periodically.

Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Class Average	Description	Quality Points
A	95 - 100	Superior	4.0
A-	90 - 94		3.7
B+	87-89	Very Good	3.3
B	83-86	Good	3.0
B-	80-82		2.7
C+	77-79	Fair	2.3
C	73-76	Acceptable	2.0
C-	70-72		1.7
D+	67-69		1.3
D	63-66	Passing	1.0
D-	60-62		0.7
F	0-59		0.0

Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to misunderstanding and confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form and signed both by the instructor and the student. It is forwarded to the Office of the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at: <http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/>

Center for Disability Services / Student Needing Access Parity (SNAP)

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is

needed. More information regarding the College's disability services can be found at: <http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/>

Center for Student Learning:

The Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services provide assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing skills, and course content. Services include tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843) 953-5635.

Mental & Physical Wellbeing:

At the college, we take every students' mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at <http://counseling.cofc.edu> or 843.953.5640 3rd Robert Scott Small Building) or the Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863 or meet with them in person 3rd Floor Stern Center). These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

Substantial Interruption of Instruction

If In-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their student a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone and internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

Notes:

1. The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
2. Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at the College of Charleston. Upon completion of this course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.
3. The last day to withdraw from the course and receive a "W" is **Friday, March 24th**.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Day	Topic	Reading
1/11/2023	W	Class Introduction	
1/13/2023	F	What is Urban economics?	Economic Models
1/18/2023	W	Economic Models and Comparative Statistics	
1/20/2023	F	Economic Models and Comparative Statistics	
1/23/2023	M	Examples of Urban Economics Research	
1/25/2023	W	Empirical Project Introduction	
1/27/2023	F	Supply and Demand Model Review	Supply and Demand Model
1/30/2023	M	Why Cities	Brueckner - Ch. 1 (sections 1.1 through 1.4)
2/1/2023	W	Why Cities	
2/3/2023	F	Why Cities	
2/6/2023	M	The Economic Base of a City	LUREE - The Economic Based of a City
2/8/2023	W	The Economic Base of a City	
2/10/2023	F	Von Thunen's Model - Video Lecture	
2/13/2023	M	Regression Analysis	Hedonic Models; Linear Regression and Test of Hypothesis
2/15/2023	W	Regression Analysis	
2/17/2023	F	Regression Analysis	
2/20/2023	M	Regression Analysis - DID Operator	Difference-in-Differences
2/22/2023	W	Regression Analysis - DID Operator	
2/24/2023	F	Regression Analysis - DID Operator	
2/27/2023	M	Regression Analysis - Excel	
3/1/2023	W	Regression Analysis - Excel	
3/3/2023	F	Regression Analysis - Excel	
3/13/2023	M	Introduction to the Land Market	LUREE - Intro to the land Market
3/15/2023	W	Introduction to the Land Market	
3/17/2023	F	Introduction to the Land Market	
3/20/2023	M	Introduction to the Land Market	
3/22/2023	W	Introduction to the Land Market	
3/24/2023	F	Introduction to the Land Market	
3/27/2023	M	Empirical Project - Data	
4/3/2023	M	Implications of Space	Bogart Chapter 3
4/5/2023	W	Implications of Space	
4/7/2023	F	Implications of Space	
4/10/2023	M	Housing Policies	Brueckner - Ch. 7 (sections 7.1 through 7.2)
4/12/2023	W	Housing Policies	
4/14/2023	F	Housing Policies	
4/17/2023	M	Traffic Congestion	Brueckner - Ch. 5 (sections 5.1 through 5.5)
4/19/2023	W	Traffic Congestion	
4/21/2023	F	Traffic Congestion	
4/24/2023	M	Empirical Project - Results	
4/26/2023	W	Course Recap; Course Evaluations	

Notes: a) We will not be meeting for class on March 29 and March 31

Assignment Due Dates

Date	Day	Assignment	Content Dates
1/18/2023	W	Quiz 1	1/11, 1/13
1/23/2023	M	Quiz 2	1/18, 1/20
1/27/2023	F	HW 1	1/11 - 1/20
1/30/2023	M	Quiz 3	1/23, 1/25, 1/27
2/3/2023	F	HW 2	1/23 - 1/27
2/6/2023	M	Quiz 4	1/30, 2/1, 2/3
2/10/2023	F	HW 3	1/30 - 2/3
2/13/2023	M	Quiz 5	2/6, 2/8, 2/10
2/17/2023	F	HW 4	2/6 - 2/10
2/20/2023	M	Quiz 6	2/13, 2/15, 2/17
2/27/2023	M	Quiz 7	2/20, 2/22, 2/24
3/3/2023	F	HW 5	2/13 - 2/24
3/13/2023	M	Quiz 8	2/27, 3/1, 3/3
3/20/2023	M	Quiz 9	3/13, 3/15, 3/17
3/24/2023	F	HW 6	2/27 - 3/17
3/27/2023	M	Quiz 10	3/20, 3/22, 3/24
4/3/2023	M	Quiz 11	3/27
4/7/2023	F	HW 7	3/20 - 3/24
4/10/2023	M	Quiz 12	4/3, 4/5, 4/7
4/14/2023	F	HW 8	4/3 - 4/7
4/17/2023	M	Quiz 13	4/10, 4/12, 4/14
4/21/2023	F	HW 9	4/10 - 4/14
4/24/2023	M	Quiz 14	4/17, 4/19, 4/21
5/3/2023	W	Final Exam	Everything