# URBAN ECONOMICS: ECONOMICS OF CITIES (ECON 4242) Department of Economics, University of Colorado Fall 2012

Classtime:	M, W, F:100 - 150 PM	Room	MUEN E432
Professor:	Charles de Bartolome	Office:	ECON 203
Office hours:		e-mail:	debartol@colorado.edu
	Fri 9:15 - 10:15 am.		

- Textbook Arthur O'Sulivan: Urban Economics (8<sup>th</sup> Edition). McGraw-Hill Irwin.
- 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 metropoltan 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: <u>http://learn.colorado.edu</u>.

In the past, some students have had difficulty in downloading some of the posted pdf files. ITS advises that this is due to the large file sizes. ITS recommends that you open the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Then dick as: Edit > Preferences> Internet and uncheck "Allow Fast Web View".

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

Exams:

The two midterms will be g FIRST MIDTERN		7:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m
SECOND MIDTE	ERM: Monday 5 Nov in EDUC 220	7:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m
The final exam will be held FINAL:	as: Saturday 15 Dec in MUEN E432	7:30 p.m - 1000 p.m

You must bring two blue-booksto each exam.

Because this is a 4000-level class, the exams will not just repeat material covered in class. Some questions will dosely 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. If you have some other compelling reason why you cannot take the exam, you may ask me for permission to take the make-up. Otherwise, if you fail to be present for an exam, you will score 0 in 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. Therefore, usage of laptop computers in class is restricted to following the course notes and laptops may only be used in the front two rows of the classroom

## 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 ondocumented disabilities. Contact:303-492-8671;Center for Community Building, RoomN200; or by email at: dsinfo@colorado.edu

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 (<u>honor@colorado.edu</u>; 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 nonacademic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at: <u>http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html</u> and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

# COURSEOUTLINE

<u>Date</u>	Topic	Chapter
	1. INTRODUCTION	
27, 29 Aug	INTRODUCTION Fundamental Questions of Urban Economics The need for a model Descriptions of urban areas "Five Axioms of Urban Economics" Discussion of regression analysis	1

# - the hedoric regression of house prices

\*31 Aug Kain, J., and J. Quigley, (1970), "Measuring the value of housing quality," Journal of Americ

- 19, 21 Spt CITY SIZE Rank-Population Rule Optimal City Size Equilibrium City Size
- 24 Sept REVIEW FIRST @RI 0 Ôd•

# 22, 24 Oct LAND USE PATTERNS

- monocentric city
- "Edge Cities"
- policy: land-use zoning
- urban sprawl
- limiting growth urban growth boundary
  - limiting building permits
  - development fees
- \*26 Oct Kahn, M., (2000), "The environmental impact of suburbanization," Journal of Policy Analysis and Management <u>19</u>, 569586

5. NEIGHBORHOODS/COMMU<sup>2</sup> r RP 5. N

- 7 (omit pp. 189191)
- 9 (pmit pp. 233235)

- demand side housing vouchers
- community development
- mortgage deduction
- \*3 Dec Honig, M., and R.K. Filer, (1993) "Causes of intercity variation in homelessness," American Economic Review 83, 248255.

# 7. MASS TRANSIT

5, 7, 10 Dec Ridership sensitivity System choice Subsidies 11

\*12 Dec Bollinger, C.R., and K.R. Ihlanfeldt, (1997), "The impact of rapid rail transit on economic development: the case of Atlanta's MARTA," Journal of Urban Economics <u>42</u>, 179204.

Problem Set: Ridership Sensitivity

- 14 Dec REVIEW
- 15 Dec FINAL EXAM (7:30 1000 p.m in MUEN E432)