

EC 431/531 – Urban Economics (4 credits)

Syllabus

Portland State University
Department of Economics

Class Meetings: 1400-1550 pm, Tues/Thurs
Class Location: LH 301
Office Hours: 1200-1300 Tues/Thurs and by appointment

Instructor: J. Forrest Williams
Office: Urban Building, 420-M
Phone: Use the Slack Server
E-mail: forrest.williams@pdx.edu

Course Objectives

This course studies the functions of the urban economy: the market and public sectors therein. Economic analysis of issues such as land use, environmental quality, transportation, housing, income distribution, and financing urban public services will be covered.

Recommended Prerequisites

EC 201. EC 202; EC 311

Required Textbook

Urban Economics, Arthur O'Sullivan

Expectations

As this is a 400/500 level course, students are expected to have a more than basic understanding of economics concepts. Further, students are required to do any assigned readings before class.

Course Project

You will have to complete a paper for this course. Paper guidelines will be covered in more detail with an additional document as the class proceeds. The paper will be between eight and ten pages in length and cover an extension of what we learned in class applied to Portland or similar metro areas. You are always free to discuss your ideas with me, and the earlier you do so, the more valuable my advice will be.

Exams and Grading Policy

The tentative date for the midterm is February 6th. The final is determined by the University and you can discover its time by visiting the registrar's webpage.

Cell phones may not be used as calculators. A PSU or other photo ID should be brought with you and you may be asked to show this ID upon turning in the completed exam.

Your grade will be based on your performance on two exams and an urban economics policy paper. The breakdown of these parts of your total grade is demonstrated below:

Assignment	Percentage
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Project	40%

Below is the grading scale for the course:

Grade	Percentage Earned
A	90-100
B	80-89.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Less than 60

Attendance and Class Participation

Students are expected to attend all lectures unless they are ill or prevented from attending by exceptional circumstances. Students are responsible for all lecture materials, including all class announcements. Please come prepared to class. Further, students are required to have read all the materials before the class and be able to discuss those topics in the readings.

Classroom Etiquette

In order to maximize learning in the classroom we must minimize distractions. Cell phones must be in silent mode while you are in the classroom. No other electronic devices (other than calculators) may be used during class without the permission of the instructor. If a cell phone rings in class, a student is at risk to lose a portion of her grade for that week.

Extra Help

Office hours are a time that I set aside to work with students, so please don't hesitate to stop by and ask questions. If you are unable to make it to scheduled office hours, you are encouraged to make an appointment to see me at another time. You can also get help at the [Economics Department Computer Lab](#) and the [PSU Learning Center](#) (2nd floor of Millar Library, Room 245) which is open to all PSU students and has economics tutors (see tutor schedule for details).

Affirmative Action

Portland State University supports equal opportunity for all, regardless of age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, sexual or gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other basis in law.

Disability Resources at PSU

Students with accommodations approved through the Disability Resource Center are responsible for contacting the faculty member prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval should contact the [DRC](#) immediately.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is expected and required of students enrolled in this course. Suspected academic dishonesty in this course will be handled according to the procedures set forth in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

I reserve the right to alter the syllabus as I see fit during the course. Proper notice will be given if such a change is made.