

Econ 3439W Urban and Regional Economics

Fall 2012
Office Hours: MW 12-1, or by appt.
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This course uses economic analysis to study the spatial structure of cities, as well as economic policies relevant to cities, including transportation, housing, education, and crime. The course presumes a basic understanding of microeconomic principles. All readings are from the following text:

John McDonald and Daniel McMillen, *Urban Economics and Real Estate: Theory and Policy*, 2nd Ed., Wiley, 2011.

Grading: All students are required to write three 5-7 page papers. The due dates for the initial drafts are as follows: **September 28**, **October 31**, and **November 30**. Further details on the papers and related material are provided in a separate handout. Each of the papers is worth 25% of the course grade. A final exam is worth 20%. The final 5% is based on class participation. This involves three components: regular class attendance, participation in class discussions, and in-class critiquing of papers (which will occur on the days that the first draft of each paper is due).

Course Outline and Readings:

I. Introduction	Chapters 1, 2, 4
II. Internal Structure of Cities	
A. Rent Gradients	Chapters 6, 7
B. City Sizes and Types	Chapter 5
C. Urban Transportation	Chapters 16
III. Housing	
A. The Basic Model	Chapter 9, 10
B. Housing Policies	Chapter 11
IV. Local Public Finance	Chapters 14
V. Other Topics	
A. Urban Crime	Chapter 20
B. Urbanization and Growth	Chapter 24