Course Description: This course introduces students to the economic analysis of urban and metropolitan areas, examining the economic characteristics and structure of urban and regional areas, and analyzing why cities exist, why and how they grow, and why they decline. We will also give strong emphasis to the study of the most relevant policy issues affecting cities and regions, such as transportation, local public services, housing, environmental problems, and the relationship between decentralization, equity and growth. The course will draw on the literature from economics, and also political science, and public policy and public administration to provide students an interdisciplinary framework for analyzing urban economics and policy. The course will take a global perspective, examining urban problems in various settings around the globe.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Each student is expected to read the items listed as 'required readings' for each session. The selection of required readings is subject to slight changes once the final class size is known.

In addition, students are expected to complete:

(1) Mid-Term (First Part) Exam. This will be an in-room exam on Thursday March 14th.
(2) A final take-home exam or –alternatively- a research paper with a topic to be determined in advanced with the instructor. Due date: May 16, 2011.
(3) Class Presentation of a topic in the program.
(4) Policy simulation and Short paper on the Policy simulation (around 1,000 words, flexible). The paper is due on May 2nd.
(5) Participation in class discussions.

Grading: (1) First Term Exam 15%; (2) Class presentation: 25%; (3) Policy simulation -and corresponding short paper- 20%; (4) General class participation 15%; and (5) Final Exam or Research Paper 25%.

Course Schedule:


Required:

Complementary:


**February 14: Economic Analysis of Cities and Urban Spatial Structure**

Required:

Complementary:


**February 21: Urban Sprawl**

Required:


Complementary:


**February 28: Transportation (I)**

Required:


Complementary:


**March 7: Transportation (II)**

Required:


Complementary:


**March 14: First Term Exam and Class Presentations**

**March 28: Local Public Services Economics and Management (I)**

Required:


Complementary:


April 4: Local Public Services Economics and Management (II)

Required:

Complementary:

April 11: Housing Economics and Policy

Required:

Complementary:

April 18: Policy simulation: How to fix the X problem in my city

April 25: (I) Environmental policies in urban areas. (II) Decentralization, Growth and Equity.

(I) Required:

(I) Complementary:
Bel, Germà and Jordi Rosell, 2012. Effects of the 80 km\cdot h^{-1} and variable speed limit on air pollution in the metropolitan area of Barcelona. Universitat de Barcelona WP.

(II) Required:

(II) Complementary:

May 2nd: The Challenges of Urban Policy and Local Government

Required: