



BOSTON COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Economics 394.01

Fall 1999
MW 3-4:30

R. J. Arnott

Urban Economics

In this course, microeconomic theory will be applied to urban problems. The general topics to be covered are:

- Market forces in the development of cities
- Land rent and urban land-use patterns
- Poverty and housing
- Local government
- Urban transportation
- Education and crime

Fluency in high school geometry and calculus is assumed. A grasp of basic calculus is an asset but is not essential. And a good understanding of intermediate microeconomic theory is expected.

The grade for the course will be determined as follows:

problem sets	20
essay	20
midterm	20
final exam	40

The midterm exam will be given in class on Monday, November 8. The final exam will be in the scheduled slot. The essay is to be a field essay of approximately 10 pages, applying what you have learned to some feature of the urban economy of Boston or some other city. It is due the last day of classes. A list of sample topics will be given out. Students are encouraged to work on problem sets together, but must write up answers separately.

In previous years, I have used my own lecture notes. This year, I shall organize this course around a textbook:

Arthur O'Sullivan, Urban Economics, Fourth Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2000 (!)

The organization of the lectures will follow the organization of the textbook. A good proportion of the material in the book will not be covered in the lectures, and some material not in the book will be added. The exams will cover what and only what has been covered in the lectures.

My office is Carney 231, my office hours for the term will be Monday and Wednesday 4:30-6:00 p.m., my telephone number is 552-3674, and my e-mail address is richard.arnott@bc.edu.