

Benjamin B. Bolger

EC294.01 - Urban Theory and Policy
Boston College
Spring 2004
Carney 206
Thursdays 3pm - 5:30pm

CONTACT INFORMATION
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers basic urban economic theory, including spatial economics, transportation, housing, and local public finance. Attention will be focused on Urban Growth, Market Areas and Central Place Theory, Land Use Patterns, Urban Transportation, Local Government, Policy Analysis, Urban Problems and Poverty, Housing Demand and Supply, Education, and Crime. Prerequisite: exposure to Microeconomics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements include: regular attendance in class, completion of assigned reading materials prior to the arrival in class, thoughtful participation in the classroom, and prompt completion of all assignments.

Please see academic integrity and attendance policies listed by Boston College at:
<http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/services/students/advising/>

READING MATERIALS

O'Sullivan, Arthur. (2002). Urban Economics. McGraw Hill.

Wassmer, Robert W. (2000). Readings in Urban Economics: Issues and Public Policy. Blackwell Publishers.

Bingham, Richard D. and Robert Mier. (1997). Dilemmas of Urban Economic Development : Issues in Theory and Practice. Sage Publications.

Alshuler, Alan A. and David E. Luberoff. (2003). Mega-Projects: The Changing Politics of Urban Public Investment. The Brookings Institution.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND GRADED WORK PRODUCT

Students will be evaluated by way of classroom participation, assigned papers, and an in-class exams. Classroom participation will be evaluated on the quality of arguments. Thoughtful questions, creative insight, and critical analysis will be most valued.

Your final course grade will be based on the following formula:

Class Participation:	On going	10 percent of final grade
Thought Paper:	Due on February 19, 2004	20 percent of final grade
Midterm Exam:	Held on March 11, 2004	20 percent of final grade
Research Paper:	Due on April 1, 2004	25 percent of final grade
Final Exam:	Scheduled by Boston College	25 percent of final grade

Students have the option to submit drafts of their thought and research papers for comments and suggestions prior to the due date.

AGENDA: LECTURE TOPICS & READINGS

Week of January 19, 2004

Part I Market Forces in the Development of Cities
O'Sullivan Chapters 2-4
2 Why Do Cities Exist?
3 Big and Small Cities
4 Where Do Firms Locate?

Week of January 26, 2004

Urban Growth & Market Areas and Central Place Theory
O'Sullivan Chapters 5-6
5 Urban Growth
6 Market Areas and Central Place Theory

Week of February 2, 2004

Land Rent and Land Use Patterns
O'Sullivan Chapters 7-8
7 Introduction to Land Rent
8 Land Use in a Monocentric City

Week of February 9, 2004

Part III Urban Transportation
11 Autos and Highways
12 Mass Transit

Week of February 16, 2004

Bingham & Mier
Dilemmas of Urban Economic Development
Part I

Week of February 23, 2004

Bingham & Mier

Dilemmas of Urban Economic Development
Part II

Week of March 1, 2004

Spring Break

Week of March 8, 2004

Alshuler & Luberoff, Part I

Week of March 15, 2004

O'Sullivan Chapters 19-20

Part VI Local Government

19 Local Government Spending

20 Local Government Revenue

Week of March 22, 2004

Wassmer Chapters 1-4

Week of March 29, 2004

Bingham & Mier

Dilemmas of Urban Economic Development

Part II

Week of April 5, 2004

Wassmer Chapters 5-6

Week of April 12, 2004

Alshuler & Luberoff, Part II

Wassmer Chapters 7

Week of April 19, 2004

O'Sullivan Chapters 13-14

Part IV Urban Problems

13 Household Sorting

14 Urban Poverty

Week of April 26, 2004

O'Sullivan Chapters 15-16

Part IV Urban Problems

15 The Urban Education Problem

16 Urban Crime

Week of May 3, 2004

Review of course material