

**SYLLABUS**  
**URBAN STUDIES 301**  
**URBAN SPATIAL SYSTEMS**  
Spring Semester 2007

**Professor:** Dr. Larry Ledebur  
**Class:** Wednesdays, 6-9:50PM  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Office:** College of Urban Affairs, Room 307  
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**Course Description:** This course focuses on:

*Evolution and changing form of the metropolitan region, the linkages among cities, their neighborhoods and suburbs, and the relationships of these components of metropolitan areas to the regional economies of which they are a part.*

**Major questions addressed:**

1. Why do cities exist?
2. Where do firms locate?
3. What drives urban economic growth and decline?
4. What determines the spatial distribution of economic and social space?
5. What is the role of market forces in shaping the urban landscape?
6. What is the importance of these market forces?
7. Do market forces always result in the “highest and best use” of urban space?
8. What are public tools for shaping and reshaping urban space?

**The following urban issues are also addressed:**

1. Urban transportation
2. Household sorting by education, income and race
3. Urban poverty
4. Urban education
5. Urban crime
6. Housing and housing policies
7. Local government spending and local government revenues

**Prerequisites:** This course is open to undergraduate students and undergraduate honors students. Honors students, in consultation with the professor, will develop individualized honors contracts.

**Text:** John F. McDonald and Daniel P. McMillen, *Urban Economics and Real Estate: Theory and Policy*, 2007

**Project:** Students must complete a class project addressing issues in the changing spatial structure of urban areas. Topics must be selected from the attached list.

**Project Presentations:** Students will present their projects to the class in the last two class periods.

<b>Evaluation:</b>	First Exam	March 7	25%
	Final Exam	May 9	25%
	Class Project		30%
	Class Presentation		10%
	Class attendance and participation		10%

**Policies:** Students are expected to attend class, participate in the class discussion, and take exams at the scheduled times. The material discussed in class will be covered on the exams.

**Resource:** Copies of PowerPoint presentations will be placed on the Levin College intranet. On the N drive, click on the Ledebur folder, and go into the UST 301 folder. On the internet, go to <ftp://urban.csuohio.edu/utility>, click on Ledebur, and then on UST 301.

## ASSIGNMENTS

<b>January 17</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO URBAN SPATIAL SYSTEMS</b>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>ECONOMICS AND URBAN AREAS</b> 1. Introduction to Urban Economics 2. Schools of Thought in Urban Economics 3. Location Decisions, Agglomeration Economies, and the Origins of Cities
<b>January 31</b>	<b>LOCATION PATTERNS IN URBAN AREAS</b> 4. The Economic Functions of Cities 5. Introduction to Urban Location Patterns: Static Analysis
<b>February 7</b>	6. Using the Monocentric City Model 7. Empirical Testing of the Monocentric City Model
<b>February 14</b>	<b>MODELS OF URBAN GROWTH</b> 19. Models of Metropolitan Economic Growth
<b>February 21</b>	20. Agglomeration Economies, Technical Change, and Urban Growth <b>Project proposal due</b>
<b>February 28</b>	21. Economic Development Policies for Urban Areas

<b>March 7</b>	<b>Exam</b>
<b>March 14</b>	<b>Spring Break. No Class</b>
<b>March 21</b>	<b>URBAN HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE</b> 8. Housing in Urban Areas 9. Housing Policy in the United States 10. Real Estate Law and Institutions
<b>March 28</b>	11. Real Estate Markets 12. Real Estate Development and Investment
<b>April 4</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT IN URBAN AREAS</b> 13. The Public Sector in Urban Areas 14. Urban Transportation
<b>April 11</b>	<b>URBAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS</b> 15. An Overview of Urban Social Problems 16. Urban Poverty and Its Spatial Consequences 17. Crime in Urban Areas 18. Education, Labor Markets, and Migration
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Class Project Presentations</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>No Class</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Class Project Presentations</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>