

SYLLABUS
UST 301: URBAN DEVELOPMENT
SPRING 2009

General Information

Location: UR 241
Time: Tuesdays, 6-9:50pm.
Instructor: John Brennan
E-mail: j.brennan@csuohio.edu
Phone: (216) 875-9959
Office: UR 128
Office Hours: MW 11-11.50am, and by appointment

Required

You will need a working e-mail account. If your current CSU account is not used—or if messages to that account are not forwarded to a working account—please provide me with a working e-mail account.

You will need a USB portable flash drive (aka, thumb drive) to copy files from a university-based shared network drive. Details on how these files will be accessed are currently being worked out.

Texts: This text will be accompanied by a number of articles:

Local Economic Development: Analysis, Practices, and Globalization by John P. Blair and Michael Charles Carroll (2008)

The previous text (1995) is permitted for use, but discrepancies between the two (there are some, but not many) should be accounted for by the user of the older text. The additional articles will be e-mailed to your working e-mail account. *Notes about buying books online:* I do encourage you to purchase books online. Amazon.com, Alibris.com and Abebooks.com are the best places. Watch for shipping times, however. You may get a bit behind in your readings.

Class Objectives and Description

This course is an introduction to the way in which market forces allocate the use of space in cities and regions and the economic development of regional economies. It also provides instruction and understanding of a few basic techniques of urban spatial economic analysis. Courses similar to this one are taught under a variety of names in planning, public policy, and urban studies programs. The most common names are Urban and Regional Economics as well as Urban and Regional Geography.

The structure of urban space—land uses—and the way regional economies use that space is fundamentally an economic process of distribution and competition that is directed by both market and politically driven investments. These investments are overlaid on the history of the built and natural environments. The various markets that compose the urban system are all related to the three factors of production: land, labor and capital. In the case of metropolitan areas the fundamental markets are the local labor market, the housing and product markets.

At the same time we realize that not all of the world is economically determined, and that communities of all sorts act as a social system that moderate the economic world. One powerful expression of spatial community is neighborhood, but we are also associated with non-spatial communities—such as professional organizations—and communities that have a spatial component—formal politics or church membership are two good examples. We will also spend time thinking about the connection between community and the metropolitan economy.

There are no formal prerequisites to the course. It is expected that you have access to, and a working knowledge of, word-processing and spreadsheet computer programs. Students are expected to know how to calculate percentages, percent change, understand the concept of a line—including slope, and be comfortable with the calculation and interpretation of means, medians, modes, standard deviations, and correlation analysis. An introductory understanding of both economics (for example, UST 300) and algebra is helpful.

The most important objective of this course is to think in a systematic manner about how land is used in cities and regions, and to understand how market forces influence land use (and reuse) and the development of the economy. We are also concerned with the ways in which public policy can interact with market forces to influence spatial development. We also discuss how neighborhoods—the social sites of urban settlements, residential areas, and communities—relate to the productive portions of those same areas.

As for all college courses, you should plan on a minimum of 3 hours out of class, for each credit hour. Some quick math reveals that this class will require a minimum of 12 hours of work outside of class every week. You should anticipate using all 12 of them – some weeks you might need more, some weeks you might need less.

Class Structure

This course is organized into equally important components:

1. *Readings*

Prepare for each class session by reading the assigned materials *in advance* and identifying topics that may need additional clarification in class. Your first exposure to the course material should be in this initial, advance reading. Make full use of this reading time by taking notes and forming questions to ask during lecture.

2. *Lectures and Discussion*

Lectures serve to discuss and review material in the assigned readings, not to introduce it. Lecture should be your second exposure to the assigned material. Feel free to raise questions to ensure that you thoroughly understand the material. Lectures will be most valuable (and least stress-inducing to you) if you have done the assigned reading first.

While questions and discussion are always welcome during lecture, classes where we discuss recent urban research will rely more heavily on class participation. Students should be extra vigilant in their preparation prior to these class sessions.

3. *Analytical Summaries of Assigned Articles* (aka, “article analysis”). On the second week and every third week thereafter during the semester (2nd, 5th, 8th, and 11th) you will be assigned a reading that is relevant to the course material. You will be required to write a 1 to 2 page, single-spaced analytical summary of the article. One paragraph should constitute the article summary. The remaining portion will address questions I pose to you in advance about the article content. The first week in which the article is assigned, I will provide you with related questions (2 or 3). The second week, we will discuss the

contents of the article. The analysis will be due during the third week (by the end of class). The cycle will begin anew the following week.

4. Your mastery of the information covered above—readings, lectures, analytical summaries—will be evaluated on your *mid-term and final examinations*. These two examinations will be multiple choice/short answer in nature.

Class Evaluation

Each component of class contributes to your final grade as follows:

Allocation:

50% Analytical Summaries of Assigned Articles (12.5% each)

25% Mid-Term Exam

25% Cumulative Final Exam

Grade Scale:

	Minimum Percent Achieved
A	93
A-	90
B+	87
B	83
B-	80
C+	77
C	73
C-	70
D+	67
D	63
D-	60

A note on the scale: The “minimum percent achieved” is a fixed figure. There will be no rounding up. For example, if you receive a cumulative average of 89.9 for all of your work, you will receive a B+, and not an A-.

CLASS POLICIES

Extra Credit

Toward the end of the semester, a computational exercise will be assigned that will enable you to augment your cumulative average by as much as 10%. The exercise will be a spreadsheet and/or a GIS exercise that illustrates a spatial gravity model of your personal shopping habits. Other optional exercises may also be assigned.

Missed Exams

Only in cases of extreme and documented circumstances or documented illness will make-up exams be given. You must make these arrangements in advance of the exam. No excused absences will be granted after the exam has been administered. The student must schedule the make-up exam within 7 days of the in-class exam. This is the responsibility of the student – I will not hunt you down to take a make-up. The

make-up exam will vary in form, content, and length from that given in class. No arrangements will be made after the in-class exam has been administered. Except in these rare circumstances, students earn a score of zero on missed exams.

Late Work

Late work will be penalized in this class. If you have a problem completing assignments on time, you should strongly consider taking another class. Each day an assignment is late, you will lose 20 percent of the possible score before it is graded.

Expectations of Written Work

Hand-written papers/exercises will not be accepted. This University has excellent computer resources – you should make yourself familiar with them and utilize them frequently. Spell-check and proofread everything you hand in (note that these are different). Critically evaluate all of your writing and output for correctness, completeness and clarity. Work in this class earning the grade of "A" is error-free in terms of all of these. Improper English grammar and usage will be penalized. If you have difficulty expressing yourself in writing, you are strongly encouraged to seek the assistance of Cleveland State's Writing Center.

Attendance

I do not take attendance, but I strongly recommend that you attend every class in its entirety, for the following reasons:

- Attending class provides you with an additional presentation of the class material;
- Exam material will be drawn from the text and lecture material, and all lecture material does not originate from the text;
- Common problems, issues and questions relating to course material will be discussed;
- You can only hand in materials if you are present in class;
- You are responsible for changes to this syllabus announced in class.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Misconduct

Any form of academic misconduct will earn an immediate grade of **F** for the course. In addition, your name will be forwarded to the Academic Misconduct Review Committee, for a hearing concerning your suspension from the University. To be clear, I consider any instance of academic misconduct in this class to be a major infraction. I strongly recommend that you familiarize yourself with the various forms of academic misconduct in the CSU Student Handbook, available at <http://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife/conduct/StudentCodeOfConduct2004.pdf/>. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated.

The Grade of “Incomplete”

In accordance with University policy:

“The grade of Incomplete (I) is given when the work in a course has been generally passing, but when some specifically required task has not been completed through no fault of the student (Cleveland State Student Handbook, Section 3.1.5, page 24).”

To be clear, an Incomplete is not a way of avoiding a bad grade on your record, or lightening your academic workload after having missed the last drop date. An Incomplete will be granted only in those cases that fit the above guidelines.

Important Registration Information

- Check the CSU Registrar’s website for the last date for dropping this course:
- Before dropping or withdrawing, be sure you know whether or not carrying fewer credit hours will impact your financial aid, assistantship, or scholarship.

Cancellation of Class Due to Weather

Class will not be cancelled due to weather unless the University is closed. CSU determines if day classes will be held by 4 am. Thus, on snowy mornings after 4 am, you should check www.csuohio.edu/csu_snow/ to see if class will be held that day

Students with Special Needs

Anyone anticipating the need for special accommodations to take exams, complete assignments, or otherwise fully participate in this class must identify himself or herself to the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Schedule

January 20 th	Course Overview, Syllabus and Expectations
January 27 th	The Urban Economy Chapter 1: Local economic development in a global market “Are Cities Dying,” by Edward L. Glaeser
February 3 rd	The Urban Market Chapter 2: Business location, expansion, and retention Chapter 3: Markets, urban systems, and local development “Are Cities Dying,” by Edward L. Glaeser
February 10 th	Urban Growth I Chapter 4: Economic interdependence and local structure Article Analysis due—“Are Cities Dying”

February 17 th	Urban Growth II Chapter 5: Regional growth and development <i>Chapter 6: Additional tools for regional analysis (optional)</i> “Reinventing Boston: 1640-2003,” by Edward L. Glaeser
February 24 th	Local Economic Development Chapter 7: Institutionalist perspectives on local development Chapter 8: Local economic development in a flattening world “Reinventing Boston: 1640-2003,” by Edward L. Glaeser
March 3 rd	Mid-term Examination Article Analysis due—“Reinventing Boston...”
March 10 th	Land Use Chapter 9: Land use “Zoning’s Steep Price” by Edward L. Glaeser and Joseph Gyourko
March 17 th	Spring Break—no class
March 24 th	Housing Chapter 10: Housing and Neighborhood Development “Zoning’s Steep Price” by Edward L. Glaeser and Joseph Gyourko
March 31 st	Metropolitan Regions—Regions in Decline Chapter 11: Poverty and lagging regions Article Analysis due—“Zoning’s Steep Price”
April 7 th	Metropolitan Regions—Government Finance Chapter 12: Local governance, finance, and regional integration “Do Regional Economies Need Regional Coordination”, by Edward L. Glaeser
April 14 th	The Road Ahead for Cities and Regions in the United States Chapter 13: Planning, futures studies, and development policy “Do Regional Economies Need Regional Coordination”, by Edward L. Glaeser
April 21 st	Applied Exercises Final Article Analysis due—“Do Regional Economies...” Urban Colossus: Why is New York America’s Largest City? by Edward L. Glaeser
April 28 th	Applied Exercises Urban Colossus: Why is New York America’s Largest City? by Edward L. Glaeser
May 5 th	Review/Course Wrap-Up
May 12 th	Final Examination, 6:00 PM