Catalog Description: This course analyzes the economic role and functioning of cities and examines urban issues such as real estate markets, transportation, economic development, and crime.

This course fulfills the theory requirement of the Urban Studies Minor (see http://www.luc.edu/curl/).

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing, minimum grade of "C-" in ECON 201 and 202.

Course Overview: This course is a critical study of the economic role and functioning of cities. The effect of changes in the economic base of the cities on the location and distribution of economic activity is studied. Particular attention is given to the role of land prices, population, housing, income, employment, transportation, and local public finance and expenditure. Students should be prepared for extensive mathematical problem solving and graphical analysis. **This is a writing intensive course.** Students are expected to submit well written and carefully documented papers and any required revisions on time. Regular attendance and student participation in discussions are imperative. Timely completion of practice problems and keeping up with weekly reading is critical to success in this course. You will occasionally be asked to prepare problems for presentation in class. You will also be expected to present the findings of your research as they become relevant throughout the semester. Students should bring a calculator to quizzes and exams. Cell phones and personal music players should be turned off and put away during class.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes
The students will be able to
• understand and apply the axioms of urban economics to the characteristics of a chosen city
• explain the model of spatial equilibrium within a city and across cities in a region
• analyze the role of the labor market, amenities, and other factors on spatial equilibrium in general and in particular for a chosen city
• understand the role of market failure in city economies and possible solutions

Helpful Resources:

Writing Center: http://www.luc.edu/writing/ The Writing Center offers one on one help with the writing process. Use the links on the writing center web page to schedule an appointment.

The Purdue Online Writing Lab: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/

Useful Websites: Please check the Economics student forum online (Econforum) at www.luc.edu/economicsforum/ for useful links, information, events and related web sites.

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy: http://www.lincolninst.edu/

Sakai: To access the course website, go to https://sakai.luc.edu/ and use your universal id to logon.

Required Materials:
O’Sullivan, Arthur, Urban Economics: Seventh or Eighth Edition

Optional: Glaeser, Edward, Triumph of the City -- though not required, this book is recommended and you should be able to find a cheap used copy -- you are likely to find it useful when working on your papers

Check Sakai for additional weekly readings (available through the library’s electronic journals) that may be assigned during the semester.
Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

- Students should be prepared for extensive mathematical problem solving and graphical analysis.
- While there is no absence policy, attendance and student participation in discussions are imperative. The points for class participation are based on specific unscheduled opportunities for discussion in class. Students are expected to submit feedback from these discussions during the relevant class meeting. Participation points are based on that feedback.
- See section below for writing intensive requirements.
- Quizzes must be taken on the date scheduled. Each student is expected to supply his or her own calculator for quizzes. Review material for quizzes will be available in class.
- Cell phones and personal music players should be turned off and put away during class and quizzes.

Quiz dates:

| Mid-term Quiz: Friday, Feb. 28 | Final Quiz: Friday, May 2, 9:00 - 11:00 AM |

Writing Intensive Component: This course is a writing intensive (WI) course. You will have frequent written assignments comprising 64% of your total grade for this course. You will receive feedback on your writing and will also have opportunity to revise your written work. All writing should be submitted typewritten. Handwritten papers will not be accepted.

Please see below for details of the written assignments.

Methods of Evaluation:

Grades are based on:

- Eight Writing Intensive papers 7% each (total 56%)
- Class participation and discussion 5% each (total 25%)
- Two Quizzes (mid-term & final) 10% each (total 20%)

The grading scale for the course is:

- A: 100-93%, A-: 92-90, B+: 89-87, B: 86-83, B-: 82-80, C+: 79-77, C: 76-73, C-: 72-70
- D+: 69-67, D: 66-60, F: 59 and below
Writing Intensive Papers:

During the first week of class, you are to pick a municipality that interests you. This may be the city or town where you live, or one that interests you for another reason. It can be a city in the U.S. or it can be in another country. Before you choose your city, you need to confirm that you can find adequate information about your city and, if you choose a foreign city, that the information is available in the English language. Each student will be required to have a unique city and the instructor will approve your city.

You will write 8 separate short papers describing and analyzing your city in the context of the economic models developed in class.

The topics are:

1. Introduction to your city - 1-2 page essay
2. What do they make in your city - 2 page essay
3. Economic growth and employment - 2 page essay or policy memo
4. Public education - 2 page policy memo
5. Crime in your city - 2 page policy memo
6. Automobile & public transportation in your city - 3-4 page policy memo
7. Housing & housing Policy in your city - 2 page essay or policy memo
8. Local government - 2 page essay or policy memo

For each topic, you will write a short essay or policy memo (as noted above).

An essay will describe the general characteristics of your city with respect to the topic relating these to the models developed in class. When appropriate, a brief, relevant history of the subject within your city may be incorporated in the essay. Finally, you should discuss any current relevant issues in that city that relate to the topic.

For example: An essay discussing production (What do they make in your city) in the city of Chicago would begin with a brief history of Chicago’s major industries over time. It would then consider the current industry clusters and relate these clusters to our models of agglomeration economies, considering the factors that contribute to the agglomerative cost advantages.
A policy memo will focus on one particular current issue relating to the topic in your city. The memo should describe the issue and suggest possible solutions that are based on the economic models developed in class.

For example: A policy memo on transportation in Chicago could begin with a discussion of the congestion externalities on area roadways. A description of the condition of public transportation in the city would provide framework for a proposal to reduce the external costs of auto congestion with changes in access costs in the public transportation network through better network/agency integration.

Each paper’s page minimum is shown on the list of topics; the minimum excludes references and graphs and/or charts. Put all graphs and tables in an appendix. Document your paper rigorously. You should use APA reference format. If you would like to use a style book, the bookstore stocks manuals. You can use the Internet, however, carefully document and, when appropriate, quote, your sources. As Internet citations change over time, they should be dated. When possible, it is always best to print Internet sources. You are to use a word processor for text. Handwritten assignments will NOT be accepted. Late assignments will lose 1 point (of 30 possible) per day. Assignments due dates will be provided at least one week in advance. You will receive comments and a grade for each paper you submit. Papers will be graded on content, use of economic models, relevance, organization, and style and grammar. An evaluation rubric is provided on Sakai. For your first two papers, if comments point to substantial changes, you may edit and re-submit your paper within one week for up to one full grade (3 points) improvement.

If you have questions, you can contact me at mcummi@luc.edu or 847-708-8455.

Class Participation and Discussion:

During the course of the semester, you will be asked to read and present articles and academic papers and relate these papers to your city. Depending on the nature of the paper, you might present individually or as part of a group. For various topics covered during the course, you will have an opportunity to choose, among relevant articles and academic paper, your preferred papers for presentation. Papers and discussion dates will be provided on Sakai at least one week in advance of the assigned discussion date. Missed discussions will result in a score of 0 for that particular participation/discussion assignment so make sure you choose dates and papers carefully. An evaluation rubric is provided on Sakai.
Quinlan School of Business Policies:

Attendance

Class attendance and participation are fundamental components of learning, so punctual attendance at all classes, for the full class meeting period, is expected of Quinlan students. Faculty may set participation policies unique to their courses and use class participation as a component of the final grade. The student is responsible for any assignments or requirements missed during an absence.

Make-Up Examinations

Loyola University academic policy provides that tests or examinations may be given during the semester or summer sessions as often as deemed advisable by the instructor. Because Quinlan faculty believe examinations represent a critical component of student learning, required examinations should be taken during the regularly scheduled class period. Make-up examinations are discouraged. Exceptions may be granted only by the faculty member or department chair, and only for unavoidable circumstances (illness verified by a signed physician’s note, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, or religious observance). A make-up final examination may be scheduled only with the permission of the appropriate Quinlan Assistant or Associate Dean.

If a make-up examination must be given, it is the responsibility of the faculty member to prepare, schedule, and proctor the exam. The only regular exception is for a student athlete, who may use the testing services of the Athletics Department to complete a make-up examination. For a student with a documented special testing need, please consult University policy concerning use of the testing center in Sullivan Center at Lake Shore Campus.

Academic Integrity

All members of the Quinlan School shall refrain from academic dishonesty and misconduct in all forms, including plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation, fabrication, and falsehood...Plagiarism or cheating on the part of the student in individual or group academic work or in examination behavior will result minimally in the instructor assigning the grade of “F” for the assignment or examination. In addition, all instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the chairperson of the department involved.
For further information about expectations for academic integrity and sanctions for violations, consult the complete Quinlan School of Business Honor Code and Statement of Academic Integrity on the Quinlan website:

Outline of Topics (Check Sakai before each class for additional readings)

Week 1

Introduction

*Triumph*: Intro, pp 2 - 15

*O’Sullivan*: Chapter 1, Introduction and Axioms of Urban Economics

Week 2

Why Do Cities Exist?

*O’Sullivan*: Chapter 2, Why Do Cities Exist?

*Triumph*: The Division of Labor and Lamb Vindaloo, pp 122 - 126

What Do They Make in Bangalore

*Triumph*: Chapter 1, pp 17 - 40

*O’Sullivan*: Chapter 3, Why Do Firms Cluster?

Week 3

City Size

*O’Sullivan*: Chapter 4, City Size


Week 4

Urban Labor Markets

*O'Sullivan:* Chapter 5, Urban Growth

*Triumph:* Chapter 5, Is London a Luxury Resort?


Weeks 5, 6

Urban Land Use

*O'Sullivan:* Chapter 6, Urban Land Rent

*Triumph:* Chapter 6, What's So Great About Skyscrapers?


*O'Sullivan:* Chapter 7, Land-Use Patterns

*Triumph:* Chapter 7, Why Has Sprawl Spread?


Will, George F. “Al Gore Has a New Worry,” *Newsweek*; 02/15/99, Vol. 133 Issue 7, p76.

Weeks 7-9

**Urban Quality of Life**

O’Sullivan: Chapter 8, Neighborhood Choice & (Chapter 12 in 8th ed.)

O’Sullivan: Chapter 9, Zoning and Growth Controls

Weeks 10, 11

**Urban Transportation**

O’Sullivan: Chapter 10 Autos and Highways


Week 12

Housing and Real Estate

O’Sullivan: Chapter 13 (Chapter 14 in 8th ed), Why Is Housing Different?

O’Sullivan: Chapter 14 (Chapter 15 in 8th ed), Housing Policy


“So where do the poorest go?” *Economist*; 06/07/97, Vol. 343 Issue 8020, p24-25.

Week 13

Urban Public Economics

O’Sullivan: Chapter 15 (Chapter 16 in 8th ed), The Role of Local Government

Triumph: pp 95, 101, 103

O’Sullivan: Chapter 16 (Chapter 17 in 8th ed), Local Government Revenue


**Final Exam : Friday, May 2, 9:00 - 11:00 AM**

**Please note:** This class may occasionally deviate from the course outline above. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as needed to the course syllabus.