

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 166, Urban Economics, Section 1, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	J. M. Pogodzinski
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Office Hours:	Tues & Thurs: 10am-10:30am; 2:45pm-3:15pm and by appointment (including Zoom)
Class Days/Time:	Tues & Thurs 1030-1145
Classroom:	Engineering 343
Prerequisites:	ECON 1B or instructor consent

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Analysis of major economic problems of metropolitan areas: taxation, financing of urban services, transportation, residential and industrial development, local growth controls, zoning and housing.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

PLO 4: Apply the concepts microeconomic analysis and international economic theory to urban problems and to a variety of public policy issues that arise in an urban context. This course relates most closely to PLO4: Specialist Area – Public Policy

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1: Correctly apply location theory to households and firms;

CLO2: Explain the structure of urban areas, urban form, and how prices of land and housing are determined in an urban area;

CLO3: Analyze the role of scale economies in urban analysis; CLO4: Analyze the role of externalities in urban analysis; CLO5: Evaluate the spatial aspects of competition

CLO6: Discuss fiscal issues related to cities.

CL07: Search the EconLit bibliographic database;

CL08: Access data from the American Community Survey and the County Business Patterns data of the US Census Bureau.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbooks

Jan K. Brueckner (B), *Lectures on Urban Economics*, MIT Press (2011) ISBN: 978-0-262-01636

Matthew Desmond (D), *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, Broadway Books (2017) ISBN: 978-0553447453

Richard Florida (F), *The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class and What We Can Do About It*, Basic Books (2018) ISBN: 978-1541644120

Edward Glaeser (G), *Triumph of the City*, Penguin Press (2011) ISBN: 978-1-59420-277-3

George Orwell (O), *Down and Out in Paris and London*, Mariner Books (1972) ISBN: 978-0156262248

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Assignments include timely completion of reading assignments, attendance at lectures, participation in Discussion Days, and completion of exams. These activities promote an understanding of the concepts underpinning urban economics.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Grading Information and Determination of Grades

Grades will be determined by the following scheme:

Activity	Percent of Final Grade
Discussion Day 1	6
Discussion Day 2	6
Discussion Day 3	6
Discussion Day 4	6
Discussion Day 5	6
Mid-Term Exam	35
Final Exam	35
TOTAL	100

Determination of Grades

NO CREDIT FOR MISSED DISCUSSION DAYS

A+	100-97%
A	96-93%
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	66-63%
D-	62-60%
F	59-0%

Classroom Protocol

Each student is responsible for all material covered in class lectures, assigned readings from the textbooks and related articles, as well as all other problems or assignments given in class.

Attendance: regular attendance throughout the semester is expected and will greatly improve your performance and your grade in the class.

Class Behavior: all students are expected to treat their fellow students and the instructor with respect. This is absolutely essential for creating an environment conducive to learning and the exchange of ideas. Therefore, talking in class will not be allowed.

This classroom is a “cell-free zone”. Please turn off all cell phones and pagers. Please take care of all personal business before or after class. Computers may be used for class related activities only.

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

ECON 166 / Urban Economics, Fall 2018, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice via messages sent through MySJSU. See calendar posted to course website for exact dates.

KEY: B = Brueckner; D = Desmond; F = Florida; G = Glaeser; O = Orwell

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/21/18	Introduction – course administration and policies
1	8/23/18	Basic concepts in urban economics
2	8/28/18	Basic concepts in urban economics (continued)
2	8/31/18	Basic concepts in urban economics (continued) and course themes
3	9/4/18	Read B Chapter 1; Start reading Orwell - target date to finish book: October 24
3	9/6/18	Read: B Chapter 1 (continued); D Chapters 1-2 (by Sept 20); F Chapters 1-2 (by Sept 20); G Chapters 1-4 (by Sept 20)
4	9/11/18	Read B Chapter 2
4	9/13/19	Read B Chapter 2 (continued)
5	9/18/18	Read B Chapter 3
5	9/20/18	Discussion Day 1; Read D Chapters 5-8 (by Oct 4); F Chapters 3-4 (by Oct 4); G Chapters 3-4 (by Oct 4)
6	9/25/18	Read B Chapter 3 (continued)
6	9/27/18	Read B Chapter 4
7	10/2/18	Read B Chapter 4 (continued)
7	10/4/18	Discussion Day 2; Read D Chapters 9-12 (by Oct 25); F Chapters 5-6 (by Oct 25); G Chapters 5-6 (by Oct 25)
8	10/8/18	Mid-term Exam Posted by 9am
8	10/9/18	Read B Chapter 5
8	10/10/18	Read B Chapter 5 (continued)
8	10/11/18	Mid-term Exam Due by email by 11:59pm
9	10/16/18	Introduction to Housing Affordability, Homelessness, and Housing Policy
9	10/18/18	NO CLASS MEETING
10	10/23/18	Read B Chapter 6
10	10/25/18	Discussion Day 3; Read D Chapters 13-16 (by Nov 8); F Chapters 7-8 (by Nov 8); G Chapters 7-8 (by Nov 8)
11	10/30/18	Read B Chapter 6 (continued)
11	11/1/18	Read B Chapter 7
12	11/6/18	Read B Chapter 7 (continued)
12	11/8/18	Discussion Day 4; Read D Chapters 17-20 (by Nov 29); F Chapters 9-10 (by Nov 29); G Chapter 9 (by Nov 29)
13	11/13/18	Read B Chapter 8
13	11/15/18	Read B Chapter 8 (continued)
14	11/20/18	Read B Chapter 9
14	11/22/18	THANKSGIVING
15	11/27/19	Read B Chapter 9 (continued)

15	11/29/18	Discussion Day 5; Read D Chapters 13-16 (by Nov 8); F Chapters 7-8 (by Nov 8); G Chapters 7-8 (by Nov 8)
16	12/4/18	TBD
16	12/6/18	Last class meeting - course summary and evaluation
16	12/8/18	FINAL EXAM POSTED BY 9AM
17	12/12/18	FINAL EXAM DUE BY EMAIL BY 11:59PM