

Module Outline

Module Code : RE2705
Module Title : Urban Economics
Semester : Semester 1, Academic Year 2022/2023
Faculty : NUS Business School
Department : Real Estate

Instructor(s)

Associate Professor Liao Wen-Chi (wliao@nus.edu.sg)

Overview

This module employs tools from microeconomic analysis to explain the urbanization process and the operation of real estate markets. The topics include economic factors driving city formation; market forces shaping the urban spatial structure; determinants of metropolitan and regional growth; quality of life measurements; urban sprawl and skyscrapers; urban transportation; neighbourhoods and racial/income segregation; land-use regulations; and urban governance.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to apply urban economic theories and approaches to understand the factors behind urban growth and decline. Students will be able to apply urban economic theories and approaches to understand the spatial sorting of urban activities as well as the internal structure of a city. Students will learn the policy solutions of urban problems.

Module Prerequisite(s)

NIL

Module Preclusion(s)

EC3381

General Guide & Reading

1. **Urban Economics (9th Edition)** by Arthur O'Sullivan. McGraw-Hill Higher Education
2. Complimentary ebook accessible via <https://linc.nus.edu.sg/record=b4215020> or search this ebook via <https://nus.edu.sg/nuslibraries>
3. Other supplementary materials will be made available at the course webpage.

Tentative Schedule & Outline

Lesson/ Week	Date	Topic	Activity
1 [#]	8 - 12 Aug	Introduction. Preview. Project brief	lecture; consultation

2	15 - 19 Aug	Why do cities exist? Natural and infrastructure advantages.	lecture; consultation
3	22 - 26 Aug	Why do cities exist? Agglomeration economies	lecture; consultation; tutorial I (odd week)
4	29 Aug - 2 Sep	Determination of the city size	lecture; consultation; tutorial I (even week)
5	5 - 9 Sep	Urban growth theory	lecture; consultation; tutorial II (odd week)
6	12 - 16 Sep	Future of cities	lecture; consultation; tutorial II (even week)
Recess Week			
7	26 - 30 Sep	Cities in the global economy	lecture; consultation; tutorial III (odd week)
8	3 - 7 Oct	Evolution of urban structure Urban decentralization	lecture; consultation; tutorial III (even week)
9	10 - 14 Oct	Urban land rent	lecture; consultation; tutorial IV (odd week)
10	17 - 21 Oct	Cars and roads	lecture; consultation; tutorial IV (even week)
11*	24 - 28 Oct	Urban public transit	lecture; consultation; tutorial V (odd week)
12	31 Oct – 4 Nov	CIT Briefing for digital exam. Recap.	lecture; consultation; tutorial V (even week)
13	7 - 11 Nov	Group consultation and exam preparation	consultation
Reading Week			
Examination Week (2 weeks)			

National Day, Tuesday, 9 August

* Deepavali, Monday, 24 October

There will be a consultation hour each week. The time will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Assessment

Assessment Components	Weightage
Class participation	15%
Group project	25%
Final assessment	60%
Total marks	100%

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty is essential for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. The University and School expect every student to uphold academic integrity & honesty at all times. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive, or failure to acknowledge the source, or falsification of information, or inaccuracy of statements, or cheating at examinations/tests, or inappropriate use of resources.

Plagiarism is “the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’ own” (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University and School will not condone plagiarism. Students should adopt this rule - You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work. This is a minimum standard. In case of any doubt, you should consult your instructor.

Additional guidance is available at:

- <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/acceptance-record#NUSCodeofStudentConduct>
- <http://nus.edu.sg/osa/resources/code-of-student-conduct>

About me

Associate Professor Liao Wen-Chi

<https://bizfaculty.nus.edu.sg/faculty-details/?profId=663>