



MGEC25
Urban and Real Estate Economics
Winter 2023

Instructor Contact Information:

Name: Aradhya Sood

Office: IC 286

Office hours: Fridays 8:30-9:00 AM or by appointment

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Class day/time: Fridays 11AM – 1 PM, expect Monday April 8 (instead of March 29)

Class location: IC 204

Course website: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/329381>

Course Description:

This course will study why cities exist, analyse urban spatial structure and examine land development and zoning regulations, urban transportation, land and urban development issues in developing countries, and housing market discrimination. The course will combine theoretical understanding of urban models as well as application of theory to understand urban issues from Toronto to other cities worldwide.

Organization of the Course:

This is an in-person course.

Suggested Course Materials:

Lectures on Urban Economics, by Jan K. Brueckner, Penguin Random House.

Lecture Notes and Other Announcements:

I primarily use slides with annotations during lectures, and you are expected to take notes. Annotated slides along with other course materials will be posted on Quercus. I will also provide PDFs for any essential readings.

Overall Evaluation and Grading:

Component	Weight/Value	Due Date
Homework Assignments (4)	40%	See schedule
Thesis Approval for Final Project	5%	Mar 8
Case Presentation (Groups of 2 or 3)	20%	See schedule
Final Project	35%	April 9

Homework Assignments: There are 4 homework assignments to be completed. Each student must turn in their assignments individually. Upload PDF on Quercus.

Case Presentations: The class will be divided into groups of 2-3 students. You will pick a real event related to this course: why cities exist, agglomeration, housing, transportation etc. and use research papers, newspaper articles, podcasts etc. to explain the urban theory/model that is related to your event. One group will present per class, starting with Class 3. Each group will be assigned 15 minutes—11-12 minutes for presentation and 3-4 for Q/A. The grading rubric for case presentations will be available on Quercus. All students within the group must present.

Thesis Approval: Provide a 1-2 sentence thesis statement for the question you would like to study in your final project.

Final Projects: In a 3-page paper, put forward a proposal for a paper on a question related to an urban or real estate topic studied in class. Describe the question you would ask and why. Explain which model/theory would you use and how to study the urban and real estate phenomenon? Explain what type of data would be needed to complete this project. Try to find sources for the data you have described. You do not need to provide results but highlight what your hypothesis would be and explain what methods you would need to get there. Use APA format for citations.

Policy on Missed Assignments/Examinations:

If severe illness from Covid or other emergency reasons preclude you from turning in your work on time, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

Homework Assignments, Thesis Approval and Final Projects: If you are late in turning in your work by 24 hours, you lose 15% of your grade. If you are late in turning in your work by 48 hours, you lose 30% of your grade. If you turn in your assignment after 48 hours from due date and time, you get 0 for that assignment. If severe illness from Covid or other emergency reasons preclude you from turning in your assignments in time, please reach out to me with your reason and I can give you an extension.

Case Presentations: If severe illness from Covid or other emergency reasons preclude you from participating in presentations with your group, you can email me a recording for your part of the presentation.

Statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

If you have questions or concerns on issues related to EDI, please contact the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office: <https://www.utoronto.ca/edio/>

Academic Support

Questions relating to administrative, registration, degree/program requirements should be directed to the academic advising team:

Management programs/courses: mgmtss@utoronto.ca.

Economics programs/courses: ecoss.utoronto.ca.

UTSC Library:

Management students can access library services at The BRIDGE, located in IC 108. The BRIDGE offers programs and services to support students, staff, and faculty in their studies, research projects, and experiential learning initiatives. <https://www.utoronto.ca/thebridge/>

Visit The BRIDGE to:

- Access the finance & data lab, including specialized software and Bloomberg terminals
- Participate in events and competitions
- Get research and data analytics help
- Access data and academic research tools and tutorials
- Get support in entrepreneurship and the New Venture Program
- Learn more about Work Integrated Learning

To find out more about the UTSC Library's support for students visit: <https://utsc.library.utoronto.ca/>

For all other inquiries, please email thebridge@utoronto.ca or email your Liaison Librarian, Mariana Jardim mariana.jardim@utoronto.ca

Health & Wellness Centre:

The Health & Wellness Centre provides professional and confidential medical, nursing, counselling, health promotion, and education services to all UTSC students. These services are offered in a safe, caring, respectful, and empowering environment that is directed toward optimizing your personal,

academic, and overall wellbeing.. To access these services, please use the following url: <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/hwc/> and when visiting the Health & Wellness Centre, please bring a valid T-card and Health card.

Academic Advising and Career Centre:

The Academic Advising and Career Centre (AA&CC) at UTSC integrates developmental advising, learning/study skills, career counselling, and employment coaching. To reach out to them please use the following url: <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aacc/>

Quercus – UTSC Learning Management System

To access Quercus, please visit: <https://q.utoronto.ca>

If you need help getting started? Visit the Quercus Help Page to access tip-sheets and other helpful resources.

For additional questions, contact the Ed Tech team at quercus@utsc.utoronto.ca.

For frequently asked questions, please visit: <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/technology/faq-students>

AccessAbility Services

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Accessibility Services office.

<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ability/welcome-accessability-services>

The Centre of Teaching and Learning

The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is available to support you in your writing, math and stats, and English language needs. It offers online and in-person tutoring and consultations and has a variety of helpful resources.

English Language Development Centre:

The English Language Development Centre (ELDC) helps students develop the critical thinking, vocabulary and academic communication skills essential for achieving academic and professional success. Personalized support includes: RWE (for academic writing); Communication Cafés (oral); Discussion Skill-Building Cafés; Vocabulary Cafés; seminars/workshops; personal ELD consultations; drop-in sessions.

<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ctl/english-language-development-support>

The Writing Centre:

The Writing Centre (TWC) offers invaluable services to students (learn to become a better writer!) and offers many different kinds of help: drop-in sessions, individual consultations, workshops, clinics, and online writing handouts. <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ctl/writing-support>

Other Support:

For more information regarding other academic support from the university, please visit CTL's Student Resource Centre at AC313 or check out <https://www.utscc.utoronto.ca/ctl/academic-learning-support>.

Use of Generative AI in Assignments

Students may use artificial intelligence tools, including generative AI, in this course as learning aids or to help produce assignments. However, students are ultimately accountable for the work they submit.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university. The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters

(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/pjun011995.pdf>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be subject to academic discipline ranging from a mark of zero on the assignment, test or examination to dismissal from the university as outlined in the Code of Behavior on Academic Matters. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties. If you like to find out more information regarding university advice for 'How not to plagiarize', please use the following url: <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize/>

More generally, the link below includes a lot of useful advice for students on academic writing: <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/>

For information and resources on Academic Integrity, visit: <https://www.utscc.utoronto.ca/vpdean/faq-0>

FIPPA language

Notice of video recording and sharing (Download and re-use prohibited)

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Detailed Course Outline:

DATE	TOPIC	DUE DATES
Jan 12	Class 1: Introductions, definition of cities, and why cities exist	
Jan 19	Class 2: Agglomeration economies	
Jan 26	Class 3: Systems of cities	Group 1 presentation
Feb 2	Class 4: Trade-offs governing urban spatial structure	Group 2 presentation
Feb 9	Class 5: Differences across Cities	Assignment 1 due at 1pm Group 3 presentation
Feb 16	Class 6: Urban sprawl and Cities and the environment	Group 4 presentation
Mar 1	Class 7: Housing	Assignment 2 due at 1pm Group 5 presentation
Mar 8	Class 8: Housing Discrimination	Project thesis due at 1pm Group 6 presentation
Mar 15	Class 9: Public Transportation and Traffic Congestion	Group 7 presentation
Mar 22	Class 10: Land and urban issues in developing countries	Assignment 3 due at 1pm Group 8 presentation
April 5	Class 11: Real estate markets and market valuations	Group 9 presentation
April 8 (Mon)	Class 12: Regulatory environment for real estate markets and financing home ownership	Assignment 4 due at 1pm Group 10 presentation
April 9		Final project due at 1 pm