I. Catalog Description

EC 432 Seminar in Urban Economics (4)

Analysis of the distribution and stability of income in urban areas; economic development of California cities; physical distribution and urban transportation problems. 4 seminars. Prerequisites: EC 201 or EC 202.

II. Required Background or Experience

EC 201 or EC 202.

III. Expected Outcomes

Students in EC 432 will:

a) analyze numerous urban economic problems,

b) identify and summarize problems of city and regional governments,

c) suggest solutions to some current economic problems,

d) develop economic analytical tools to formulate and evaluate urban economic problems across disciplines, ie. urban planning.

IV. Text and Readings

Texts:


Readings:


References:

American Economic Review  
Journal of Economic Inquiry  
Journal of Urban Economics  
Land Economics  
Regional Science and Urban Economics  
Regional Studies  
Review of Regional Studies  
Urban Studies

V. **Minimum Student Materials**

Textbooks, notebooks, and access to library reference materials.

VI. **Minimum College Facilities**

Classroom for seminar discussions equipped with audio-visual equipment and computer access.

VII. **Course Outline**

A. Introduction
   1. What is Urban Economics?
   2. What is a City?
   3. Survey of the Literature in Urban Economics

B. Historical Development of Cities and Urban Places
   1. European Development
   2. Asian Development
   3. African and Middle-Eastern Development

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C. Urban Area Impacts on Various Cultures
   1. Asian Communities
   2. Latinos and Barrios
   3. Impacts of Ghettos on Cultures
   4. Impacts of Urbanization on Native American Cultures

D. Impacts of Various Cultures on Urban Areas
   1. Concept of Barrios and Its Impact on Urban Areas
   2. Some Ghettos Represent Cultures Within Cultures
   3. Urban Shape Influenced by Various Cultures in an Area

E. An Economic View of the Emergence and Growth of Cities
   1. Markets in a Spatial Setting
   2. Cities in a Spatial Setting
   3. The Economics of City Size

F. Inside a City's Economy
   1. The Urban Land Market
   2. The Housing Market: A Local Perspective
   3. The Housing Market: A National Perspective
   4. The Urban Transportation Market

G. When a City Separates Into Two Economies: Nonwhite and White
   1. Production and Income in the Ghetto
2. Economics of Residential Segregation By Race

H. The Urban Public Sector

1. Urban Public Finance

I. Where Do We Go From Here?

VIII. **Instructional Methods**

There are five methods of instruction:

a) assigned reading materials,

b) presentation of lecture, audio-visual and written material by the professor,

c) demonstration of how to prepare a written report concerning urban economics to guide students in preparing their term reports,

d) student development of answers to policy issues in two written, take-home examinations, and

e) student leadership and participation in seminar discussions on selected topics.

IX. **Evaluation of Outcomes**

There are three methods of evaluation:

a) two take-home written examinations concerning the development of urban policy issues to be no more than 10 pages in length,

b) a term paper on an urban economic problem to be no more than 15 pages in length, and

c) evaluation of contributions to the seminar.