SYLLABUS
URBAN STUDIES 301
URBAN SPATIAL SYSTEMS
Spring Semester 2007

Professor:   Dr. Larry Ledebur
Class:   Wednesdays, 6-9:50PM
Office Hours:   By appointment
Office:  College of Urban Affairs, Room 307
Phone:   216-687-4551     Email: ledebur@urban.csuohio.edu

Course Description: This course focuses on:

Evolution and changing form of the metropolitan region, the linkages among
cities, their neighborhoods and suburbs, and the relationships of these
components of metropolitan areas to the regional economies of which they
are a part.

Major questions addressed:
1. Why do cities exist?
2. Where do firms locate?
3. What drives urban economic growth and decline?
4. What determines the spatial distribution of economic and social space?
5. What is the role of market forces in shaping the urban landscape?
6. What is the importance of these market forces?
7. Do market forces always result in the “highest and best use” of urban space?
8. What are public tools for shaping and reshaping urban space?

The following urban issues are also addressed:
1. Urban transportation
2. Household sorting by education, income and race
3. Urban poverty
4. Urban education
5. Urban crime
6. Housing and housing policies
7. Local government spending and local government revenues

Prerequisites: This course is open to undergraduate students and under-
graduate honors students. Honors students, in consultation with the
professor, will develop individualized honors contracts.

Text: John F. McDonald and Daniel P. McMillen, Urban Economics and Real
Estate: Theory and Policy, 2007

Project: Students must complete a class project addressing issues in the
changing spatial structure of urban areas. Topics must be selected
from the attached list.
**Project Presentations:** Students will present their projects to the class in the last two class periods.

**Evaluation:**
- First Exam March 7 25%
- Final Exam May 9 25%
- Class Project 30%
- Class Presentation 10%
- Class attendance and participation 10%

**Policies:** Students are expected to attend class, participate in the class discussion, and take exams at the scheduled times. The material discussed in class will be covered on the exams.

**Resource:** Copies of PowerPoint presentations will be placed on the Levin College intranet. On the N drive, click on the Ledebur folder, and go into the UST 301 folder. On the internet, go to ftp://urban.csuohio.edu/utility, click on Ledebur, and then on UST 301.

### ASSIGNMENTS

**January 17**  INTRODUCTION TO URBAN SPATIAL SYSTEMS

**January 24**  ECONOMICS AND URBAN AREAS
1. Introduction to Urban Economics
2. Schools of Thought in Urban Economics
3. Location Decisions, Agglomeration Economies, and the Origins of Cities

**January 31**  LOCATION PATTERNS IN URBAN AREAS
4. The Economic Functions of Cities
5. Introduction to Urban Location Patterns: Static Analysis

**February 7**
6. Using the Monocentric City Model
7. Empirical Testing of the Monocentric City Model

**February 14**  MODELS OF URBAN GROWTH
19. Models of Metropolitan Economic Growth

**February 21**
20. Agglomeration Economies, Technical Change, and Urban Growth

**Project proposal due**

**February 28**
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Exam</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Spring Break. No Class</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>URBAN HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE</td>
<td>8. Housing in Urban Areas</td>
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<td>9. Housing Policy in the United States</td>
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<td>10. Real Estate Law and Institutions</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>11. Real Estate Markets</td>
<td>12. Real Estate Development and Investment</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT IN URBAN AREAS</td>
<td>13. The Public Sector in Urban Areas</td>
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<td>14. Urban Transportation</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>URBAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS</td>
<td>15. An Overview of Urban Social Problems</td>
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<td>16. Urban Poverty and Its Spatial Consequences</td>
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<td>17. Crime in Urban Areas</td>
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<td>18. Education, Labor Markets, and Migration</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
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