

**Urban Economic Problems  
ECON 146/URST 146  
UCR Spring 2016**

**Class:** MWF 1:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sproul Hall 1340.

**Communication Policy:**

Please make sure you read your email and the course's iLearn announcements daily for notices and communications from your instructor. You are fully responsible to be informed and up to date. Due to the heavy volume of emails received during the quarter, I will not answer emails if the question is already addressed in the syllabus.

**Course Description:**

Applies economic principles to the major problems of the modern urban community, such as poverty, discrimination, deterioration of the environment, and housing problems. Explores programs for alleviation of or solution to these issues.

**Goals and Objectives:**

To provide the student with introductory tools in urban economics and to connect the subject with the real world. The combination of theory and real world applications should empower the student with a set of tools to analyze and have a deeper understanding of our economic system and public policy. By the end of the course, students should be able to converse on issues related urban poverty, discrimination, housing, and other relevant issues.

**Required Textbook:**

Urban Economics by Arthur O'Sullivan, 8<sup>th</sup> edition; McGraw-Hill Irwin

**Technology requirements for class attendance:**

I will use clickers to take attendance. Please, purchase and register a **clicker** at the bookstore because we will begin using them on our second week of class.

Clickers can be purchased in CompUCR at the Bookstore.

After obtaining your clicker, you must go to the website <http://clickers.ucr.edu> to register the serial number of the clicker under your name. Every clicker on campus has a different, unique

serial number, and through this registration you are telling the campus computer “This is the serial number of my clicker for this quarter.”

Just as with every other thing you do in your classes, you must exercise high academic integrity when using clickers. Academic integrity is detailed in the last section of this syllabus, and these rules fully apply to the use of clickers. The most common type of violation of academic integrity involving clickers is when one student says to another, “I can’t make it to class today. Here, take my clicker and enter answers to the clicker questions for me.” Such behavior is a clear violation of academic integrity.

Websites of interest:

<http://clickers.ucr.edu> - student registration site and instructor roster download.

<http://cnc.ucr.edu/clickers> - everything you want to know about clicker use at UCR.

<http://www.h-itt.com> - vendor site and site to download software to your machine.

### **Course Expectations:**

**Attendance to lectures:** Is strongly encouraged. I will take attendance, at the beginning and at the end of lecture, using your clickers. These points will be extra, like extra credit points. The more you come to class the greater the cushion will be to protect your grade in the future.

**Exams:** There will be two in class exams based on the lectures and assigned readings. We will discuss their content and structure during lecture.

**Group project:** We will divide the class into 10 groups of 8 students each. Each group will pick an issue, for example urban discrimination, and a city, and develop a full presentation utilizing the textbook as a guide to frame the group’s discussion. The presentation, roughly 20 minutes, should discuss the analytical framework used, the data found, and the general findings. Each group will develop a Power Point presentation. I will grade, content, length, aesthetics of the presentation, and the overall effort to integrate the theory and the real world into a cohesive presentation. This is a demanding project that requires time and effort to prepare. Please, practice your delivery many times before the actual presentation. Groups can delegate one or more of their members to present the project to the class.

**Final reflection:** To be delivered by email to me on the date of the final exam, this exercise asks you to reflect on your role in developing the group presentation and how this exercise has transform the way you think about the particular urban problem addressed by your group.

**Make-up Work/Exams:** There will be no make-up for any work, homework, exams, quizzes, and class participation. There will be no extra credit either. Please, plan ahead.

### **Assessment and Evaluation:**

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
Exams (two of them, 25% each)	50%
Group project	35%

Class Participation with Clickers (extra credit)	5 %
Final reflection	15%

**Grade Scale:**

95–100	A	71–74	C
91–94	A-	67–70	C-
87–90	B+	63–66	D+
83–86	B	50–62	D
79–82	B-	49	
75–78	C+		

**Schedule:**

This schedule is tentative, a guideline as opposed to a rigid structure, and is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class. This schedule does not include other assignments that could be announced during the quarter.

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Due</b>
1 (Mar 28 – Apr 1)		Chapter 1	Register clicker by April 4
2 (Apr 4 - 8)		Chapter 2	Register clicker by April 4
3 (Apr 11 - 15)		Chapter 3	
4 (Apr 18 - 22)	Exam Wed	Chapter 11	In-class exam (Chapters 1-3)
5 (Apr 25 - 29)		Chapter 12	
6 (May 2 - 6)		Chapter 13	
7		Chapter 15	

Week #	Lecture	Readings	Due
(May 9 - 13)			
8 (May 16 - 20)	Exam	Chapter 16	In-class exam
9 (May 23 - Mar 27)	Group presentations		Due on assigned date and time
10 (Jun 1 - 3)	Group presentations		Due on assigned date and time
<b>Final Exam</b>	Deliver final reflection by email		<b>Due on June 9 at 3:00 p.m.</b>

Please be aware that if you join the class later than the first class of the semester you won't be able to make up the participation points. If you join after the first week, you won't be able to make up the points from the quizzes administered during section.

**Additional Course Policies:**

**Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class by any means. Persons caught encouraging and/or involved in the act will be sent to the UCR academic integrity cell and will receive an "F" grade for the class. Students can work together on assignments. Additional information regarding UCR's code of conduct on academic integrity can be found online:

<http://conduct.ucr.edu/Policies/Academic+Integrity+Policy+and+Procedures.html>

**Rules & Etiquette:**

- Disruptive behavior is prohibited in class.
- Cell phones should be turned off during class.
- No late arrivals to class.
- Emails should start with the name of the instructor or TA you are addressing and end with your full name. It should have the course name (Econ 003) as the subject.

**Special Accommodations:** Students with disabilities and special needs are encouraged to contact me during office hours or by appointment.