

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics**  
**ECON 166, Urban Economics, Sections 1 & 2, Spring 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	J. M. Pogodzinski
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Office Hours:	Tues & Thurs: 10am-10:30am; 2:45pm-3:15pm and by appointment (including Zoom)
Class Days/Time:	Tues & Thurs 1030-1145 (Section 1) 1200-1315 (Section 2)
Classroom:	CCB 100
Prerequisites:	ECON 1B or instructor consent

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

**Course Description**

Analysis of major economic problems of metropolitan areas: taxation, financing of urban services, transportation, residential and industrial development, local growth controls, zoning and housing.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

PLO 4: Apply the concepts microeconomic analysis and international economic theory to urban problems and to a variety of public policy issues that arise in an urban context. This course relates most closely to PLO4: Specialist Area – Public Policy

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1: Correctly apply location theory to households and firms;

CLO2: Explain the structure of urban areas, urban form, and how prices of land and housing are determined in an urban area;

CLO3: Analyze the role of scale economies in urban analysis;

CLO4: Analyze the role of externalities in urban analysis;

CLO5: Evaluate the spatial aspects of competition

CLO6: Discuss fiscal issues related to cities.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbooks

Jan K. Brueckner (B), *Lectures on Urban Economics*, MIT Press (2011) ISBN: 978-0-262-01636

Richard Florida (F), *The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class and What We Can Do About It*, Basic Books (2018) ISBN: 978-1541644120

Edward Glaeser and Joseph Gyourko, *Rethinking Federal Housing Policy: How to Make Housing Plentiful and Affordable*, AEI Press (December 16, 2008) ISBN-13: 978-0844742731 (PDF: [http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/-rethinking-federal-housing-policy\\_101542221914.pdf](http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/-rethinking-federal-housing-policy_101542221914.pdf))

### Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignments include timely completion of reading assignments, attendance at lectures, and completion of exams. These activities promote an understanding of the concepts underpinning urban economics.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

### Grading Information and Determination of Grades

Grades will be determined by the following scheme:

- Mid-Term Exam – 25%
- Final Exam – 25%
- Lab Assignments (Total) – 25%
- Course Project – 25%

### Determination of Grades

#### NO CREDIT FOR MISSED DISCUSSION DAYS

A+	100-97%
A	96-93%
A-	92-90%
B+	89-87%
B	86-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-77%
C	76-73%
C-	72-70%
D+	69-67%
D	66-63%
D-	62-60%
F	59-0%

## **Classroom Protocol**

Each student is responsible for all material covered in class lectures, assigned readings from the textbooks and related articles, as well as all other problems or assignments given in class.

Attendance: regular attendance throughout the semester is expected and will greatly improve your performance and your grade in the class.

Class Behavior: all students are expected to treat their fellow students and the instructor with respect. This is absolutely essential for creating an environment conducive to learning and the exchange of ideas.

## **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

## ECON 166 / Urban Economics, Spring 2020, Course Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change with fair notice via messages sent through MyJSU. See calendar posted to course website for exact dates.*

KEY: B = Brueckner; F = Florida; G+G = Glaeser and Gyourko

### Course Schedule

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1/23/20	Urban Economics: Introduction; Course Administration and Policies
1/28/20	Basic Concepts in Urban Economics
1/30/20	Basic Concepts in Urban Economics (continued)
2/4/20	GIS and Urban Economics; Last Day to Drop
2/6/20	Lab 1; distribution of ArcGIS licenses
2/11/20	Lab 1 (continued)
2/13/20	Why Cities Exist ( B Chapter 1)
2/18/20	Models of the Housing Market (B Chapter 2); Read Rethinking Federal Housing Policy, Ch. 1-2
2/20/20	Lab 2
2/25/20	Lab 2 (continued)
2/27/20	Modifications of the Urban Model
3/3/20	Modifications of the Urban Model - continued
3/5/20	Lab 3; Read Florida Chapters 1-3
3/10/20	Lab 3 (continued)
3/12/20	Read B Chapter 4, Rethinking Federal Housing Policy, Ch. 3-4
3/17/20	Read B Chapter 5 (Highway congestion)
3/18/20	Mid-term Exam posted by 9am
3/19/20	Lab 4; Read Florida Chapters 4-6
3/22/20	Mid-term Exam due by 11:59pm
3/24/20	Lab 4 (continued)
3/26/20	Read B Chapters 6-7; Rethinking Housing Policy, Ch 5 + Conclusions + Appendix 1 + Appendix 2
3/30/2020 - 4/3/2020	SPRING BREAK

4/7/20	PERSONAL HOLIDAY (NO CLASS MEETING)
4/9/20	Lab 5
4/14/20	Lab 5 (continued)
4/16/20	Read Florida Chapters 7-10
4/21/20	Read B Chapter 8
4/23/19	Lab 6
4/28/20	Lab 6 (continued)
4/30/20	Course Project
5/5/20	Course Project
5/7/20	Course Summary and Evaluation
5/13/20	Final Exam posted by 9am
5/17/20	Final Exam & Course Project due by 11:59pm