

Econ 4400 Syllabus  
Prof. M. Finney

This course, *Urban and Regional Economics*, covers a field of study in which geography and economics intersect. We will study the costs and benefits of people and jobs locating in a geographically concentrated manner.

**Econ 4400** meets in room SH C139A from 4:30 to 5:45pm Tuesday/Thursday. My office hours are 1:40 to 2:40pm Monday, and 3:00 to 4:00pm Tuesday/Thursday.

The textbook for this class is **Urban Economics** (8<sup>th</sup> edition) by Arthur O'Sullivan.

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- I. **The Definition and Changing Nature of Urban Areas**  
O'Sullivan chapter 1  
[Lecture](#)
  - II. **Why Do Cities Exist?**  
O'Sullivan chapter 2, p. 17-27  
O'Sullivan chapter 3
  - III. **Where Do Cities Develop?**  
O'Sullivan appendix of chapter 2  
O'Sullivan p. 107-111
  - IV. **The System of Cities**  
[O'Sullivan Chapter 5 \(previous edition\)](#)

## Midterm

- V. **Land Use and the Rent Gradient**  
O'Sullivan (chapters 6, 7)
- VI. **Topics in Urban Economics**
  - A. **Urban Sorting and Education**  
O'Sullivan p. 419-421  
[Browning and Browning p. 118-122](#)
  - B. **The Durability of Housing and Changes in US Metropolitan Areas**  
[Lecture](#)
  - C. **Recent Changes in Urban Housing Prices**  
[Lecture](#)

**VII. Urban Transportation**

O'Sullivan (chapter 11)

[Lecture](#)

**VIII. Urban Economic Structure and Growth**

Class Notes

**IX. Urbanization and Climate Change**

[Lecture](#)

**[Final Exam](#)**

The midterm and final exams consist of some problem solving and short essay questions. Take-home essay assignments will replace a formal paper requirement. I will give you two questions to be answered in long essays. You will receive five points extra credit for one of the essays if you prepare it early and allow me to review it with you. In any case, you will lose substantial credit if you turn in an incoherent final essay. One homework will be assigned.

Grade Distribution

Midterm 36%

Final 36%

Essays 25%

Homework 3%