

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
ECO 110A, ECONOMICS OF URBAN ISSUES
 WINTER TRIMESTER, 2008

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Office Hours: I will be available for questions, comments, or assistance before and after each class meeting. You may also email or phone me. If you need additional assistance, we can set up an appointment.

Class Time and Location: Saturday, 1 PM to 5 PM, (To be assigned).

Textbook: No required textbook. Readings will be posted on Moodle

Class Goals: This class teaches how to use economic reasoning to analyze the social and economic issues confronting urban areas in the United States today, particularly Minneapolis/St. Paul. This course fulfills both the SW1 and SW2 categories under the Social World perspective. It also fulfills the City perspective.

Grading and Class Policies:

The standard grading system below will be used for the final grade:

Numerical Grade	Points Required for Grade
4.0	100 to 95
3.5	94 to 90
3.0	89 to 85
2.5	84 to 80
2.0	79 to 70
1.5	69 to 65
1.0	64 to 60
0.5	59 to 50
0.0	50 and under

A hundred possible points can be earned in this class:

Problem Sets	60 points
Book Report	15 points
Final Project	<u>25 points</u>
Total	100 points

If you are absent, it is your responsibility; to obtain any needed information, including assigned homework from your classmates. Students are strongly encouraged to form study groups for this

class. We will frequently break into small groups to work on problems and questions during class. An old truism is that you don't really understand a concept until you attempt to teach it to another person. I use small groups in my class to allow students to teach each other and hence deepen their own understanding of the theories and concepts. Attendance is required because we work together as a class. If you are absent, then, you won't be able to make up what you missed by simply reading the text. You may understand the basics but you will miss the nuances that are so important to complete understanding of the material. Furthermore, the lack of participation in the small group work hurts both yourself and your fellow students. If you understand the material well, you miss the opportunity to understand it even better by working with another student in class. If you don't understand the material then you will even farther behind by not attending class. This class is a building blocks class where the material systematically builds on earlier concepts; therefore, it is imperative that you stay on top of the material. If you have to miss class, notify the instructor. If a student has unexcused absences, they can be penalized 5 points for each class missed.

Augsburg College has adopted an honesty policy. Please be sure to consult your student guide to ensure you understand it. You are expected to abide by this code in my class. Any student guilty of plagiarism will receive a zero for that assignment. More grievous transgressions will result in additional penalties. If you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, or are having any other problem, please feel free to see me.

Class Schedule and Topics:

	Hour 1	Hour 2	Hour 3	Problem Sets
Jan. 12	Lecture 1: Introduction to the Economics of Urban Issues	Lecture 2: Introduction to Economic Reasoning	Lecture 2: Introduction to Economic Reasoning	
Jan. 26	Lecture 3: Economies of Cities	Lecture 4, State Local Finances	Lecture 4, State Local Finances	Problem Set 1: Econ Development Incentives, Due Feb 2
Feb. 2	Lecture 5: Planning the City	Lecture 6: Congestion and the Environment		Problem Set 2: Traffic Congestion, Due Feb. 16
Feb. 16	Lecture 7: Early Childhood Education	Lecture 7: Early Childhood Education	Lecture 7 Early Childhood Education	Problem Set 3: Early Childhood Education, Due Feb. 30

	Hour 1	Hour 2	Hour 3	Problem Set
Feb. 30	Lecture 9: Housing:	Lecture 10 Introduction to Urban: Labor Markets	Lecture 11, The Controversy over Immigration,	Problem Set 4: Immigration, Due Feb. 15
Mar. 15	Lecture 13: Poverty: The Background, Levy, Chapter 11	Lecture 14: Poverty and Public Policy	Discuss Book Reviews	Book Report Due
Mar. 29	Final Project			

Assignments

Problem Sets: At the close of class on sessions 2 through 6 you will be given a problem set on that day's topic. You will be asked to either to write a short essay or complete an exercise, and e-mail them to the instructor on the Wednesday prior to the next class session. They will be graded and returned at the beginning of class. Each problem set will be worth 15 points.

Book Report: Students will select a book from a list provided by the instructor, and read and prepare a report on it. Detailed instructions will be provided the first class period.

Final Project: In light of the issues and concepts discussed in class, students will be asked to complete a brief project in class, which will cover the economic concepts discussed in class.

Moodle

Moodle will be used for managing and administrating the course. It will be used for course announcements, course information, readings, class notes, overheads, handouts and problem sets.

Dave Dahl
December 7, 2007