Economics 281A
Urban Economics I

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This course will survey basic material in urban economics, covering reasons for the existence of cities, the monocentric model of urban land use, and various topics in housing economics. The course will follow a lecture format, drawing on the articles from the following reading list. Almost all of the articles are available on-line via the hyperlinks below. Because the underlying hyperlinks for the articles are long, simply clicking on the colored text won’t work. Instead, highlight the entire article title, then right click and select “open hyperlink.” The reading list also includes chapters from my textbook, *Lectures on Urban Economics*. This book is mainly aimed at an undergraduate audience, but the assigned readings provide helpful background.

The only requirements for the course are a take-home final exam, but students are expected to carefully read each item on the reading list.

**Course Readings**

I. Economic Reasons for the Existence of Cities


II. The Monocentric-City Model

a. The basic model

b. Patterns of location by income

Brueckner, J., Lectures on Urban Economics, Ch. 3, Sections 3.2-3.4.

c. Models with durable housing

Brueckner, J., Lectures on Urban Economics, Ch. 3, Section 3.5.

d. Urban sprawl

Brueckner, J., Lectures on Urban Economics, Ch. 4, Sections 4.1-4.5.
III. Issues in Third World Urbanization


IV. Freeway Congestion

Brueckner, J., *Lectures on Urban Economics*, Ch. 5.


V. The Demand for Housing and Hedonic Price Analysis


VI. Tax Treatment of Housing and Tenure Choice

Brueckner, J., *Lectures on Urban Economics*, Ch. 6, Sections 6.3-6.7.