

EC2410 Urban Economics
Course Outline

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Course objectives and requirements:

This course is intended to train you to do research at the frontier of urban economics. The course work is organized around two complementary objectives. The first is familiarizing you with the field's main ideas and topics, e.g., through lectures, readings and problem sets. The second is training you to look for mistakes or omissions in the literature, i.e., research opportunities. You will practice this second skill by critiquing other peoples' work, by sketching out a handful of ideas, and by starting a research paper. You should plan to come to class and to hand something in about once every week. A rough accounting of time required for the course is as follows:

- Lectures: 3 hours per week for 13 weeks (39 total hours).
- Reading, class preparation, and problem sets: 10 hours per week for 13 weeks (130 hours total).
- Preparation of own research projects 25 hours.
- Total 194 hours.

Lectures:

Lectures are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-3:50pm in Robinson Hall #301. I anticipate missing a number of scheduled lectures: Jan 23(First day), Mar 5, 12, April 2(?), 21, 23. Uncertainty reflects yet to made travel arrangements. I will update you as soon as possible. I will try to arrange make up classes, probably on Fridays and during reading week.

Course website:

The course website is at:

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew_Turner/ec2410/eco2410_main.htm

I will make course materials available, readings and problems sets in particular, through this site.

Office hours:

I will have office hours regularly during the term. For a schedule and location, please check this link:

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew_Turner/office_hours.htm

I will also, usually, be available to talk after class.

I will try to maintain a regular schedule of office hours, but will occasionally need to deviate from this schedule. In this case, I will make a note at the link above. I encourage you to check before you come to my office.

Grading:

In addition to lectures and readings, there are the following other course requirements with their grade-weights:

1. Three research proposals. These are 1-2 page sketches of possible research projects (20%).
2. Three referee reports. These are 1-2 page critiques of papers that I will suggest.(20%).
3. One more thorough development of a research idea, a term paper, of 5-10 pages (30%).
4. 3-4 problem sets (20%).
5. class participation (10%).

Academic misconduct:

Copying or plagiarizing or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Students caught engaging in these activities will be subject to academic discipline. The Brown University Academic code is here: <https://www.brown.edu/academics/college/degree/sites/brown.edu/academics.college.degree/files/uploads/Academic-Code.pdf>

Students with disabilities:

Please inform me if you have a disability or other condition that might require some modification of any of these course procedures. You may speak with me after class or during office hours.

Topics

A detailed listing of topics and the course schedule is available on the course website.