Economics 180 URBAN ECONOMICS

The course will provide students with a conceptual framework to understand the forces shaping the Sacramento region economic base, its growth and land use. In particular, the course will provide students with an understanding of the various analytical economic tools used by urban economist and planners, e.g., economic base model, input-output analysis, fiscal impact analysis, market analysis and economic impact analysis. In addition, the course will examine various regional urban problems, e.g., growth controls, crime, transportation, etc.

Grading

Three or four essay examinations will be given during the semester. Your grade will be determined by your performance on the examinations and on the exercises and assignments you turn in.

Internet Assignments

Students will be required to use the Internet to access data and information sources.

**Assignment 1:** Obtain census socioeconomic data on Sacramento and your zip code.

Due Date: Second Wednesday of the semester. Census information can be found at [www.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet.html](http://www.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet.html) and limited information at American Community Survey [www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www).

Economic information can be obtained at: [www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html](http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html)

Students are expected to read the *Sacramento Bee* [www.ajr.newlink.org/daym.html](http://www.ajr.newlink.org/daym.html) to be knowledgeable and informed about regional urban problems and issues.

Also you will want to familiarize yourself with the following websites:

- U.S. Census Bureau [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
- The Great Valley Center [www.valleyvision.org](http://www.valleyvision.org)
- Valley Vision [www.valleyvision.org](http://www.valleyvision.org)
- A host of other websites concerning California and planning issues are: [www.calfutures.org](http://www.calfutures.org), [www.scancentral.org/sprawl/](http://www.scancentral.org/sprawl/), Sacramento SmarthGrowth Network Link [www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/calplan.html](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/calplan.html)

Reading Assignments
The Development of the City
O’Sullivan, chapters 1-6
Public Policy Institute of California    www.ppic.org

**Exercise 1:** Market Analysis: The Provision of the Optimal Amount of Public Services and **Handout 1**
**Exercise 2:** Input-Output Analysis and **Handout 2**
**Exercise 3:** Fiscal Impact Analysis and **Handout 3**
**Exercise 4:** Economic Base/Impact Analysis (to be discussed in class)

**TEST 1 and 2**

The Economics of Urban Land Use
O’Sullivan, chapters 7-9

**TEST 3**

Land Use Controls
O’Sullivan, chapter 10

**Assignment 2:** Sacramento County’s Urban Growth Area and Line
You are to understand the rationale of Sacramento County’s Urban Growth Area.
Information on this subject can be obtain by reading the Final EIR Deer Creek Hills found in the Reserve Book Room. Read pages 4.1-1 to 4.1-25


Bruce Katz (ed), Reflections on Regionalism. Read one chapter: chapters 4 (Fishman, “The Death and Life of American Regional Planning) and 5 (Weir, Coalition Building for Regionalism) on reserve

**Assignment 3:** What is SACOG?    www.sacog.org

Access and read the Sacramento Bee has published articles on regional planning issues, e.g., the series entitled “Growth Pains.” “Natomas Land Use Discipline, etc.,

What is LAFCO?    www.calafco.org/lafco.htm
                   www.co.sacramento.ca.us.slafco/

Calfutures, “Beyond Sprawl: The Dark Side of the American Dream,” which can be obtained at:
                   www.calfutures.org/resources/resources_studies.html.
                   www.greenbelt.org

Other websites providing information on sprawl are:
                   www.plannersweb.com/sprawl/sprawl1.html
                   www.planning.org/info/sprawl.htm
                   www.urbanfutures.org
                   www.sprawlwacht.org/ugb.html

For information on Oregon’s land use planning check out one of the following sites:
darkwing.uoregon.edu/~pppm/landuse/land_use.html
                   www.icd.state.or.us
                   http://friends.org

Access the links to publications, questions/answers, overview, urban growth boundary

Transportation
O’Sullivan, chapters 11-12
SACOG [www.sacog.org](http://www.sacog.org) to access the transportation and air quality links.
Sacramento Mobility data [http://mobility.tamu.edu](http://mobility.tamu.edu)
Surface Transportation Policy Project, “Beyond Gridlock: Meeting California’s Transportation Needs for the Twenty-First Century” [www.transact.org](http://www.transact.org)

Urban Problems: Household Sorting
O’Sullivan, chapter 13

Urban Problems: Urban Poverty
O’Sullivan, chapter 14
[www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)
*Sacramento Bee* do a search on “poverty.”

Urban Problems: Education
O’Sullivan, chapter 15
PPIC has two publication you should read:
“Equal Resources, Equal Outcomes? The Distribution of School Resources and Student Achievement in California,” summary and chapter 1
“For Better or Worse? School Finance Reform in California,” introduction and chapter 11.

Urban Problems: Crime
O’Sullivan, chapter 16
*Sacramento Bee*, special report on crime Read all the articles in this series.
Use the crime statistics 4-digit map of your address

Housing
O’Sullivan, chapters 17-18
Calfutures, “California at Bottom in National Affordable Housing Report”

Local Government
O’Sullivan, chapters 19-20

PPIC, “California Cities and the Local Sales Tax,” 1999. A summary can be found in “From Home Rule to Fiscal Rule.