

# ECON\*3500 - Urban Economics

## Fall 2024 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

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## Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

## Calendar Description

Land is a scarce resource and is an input into production and consumption. Transportation costs are important and the structure of a city has real effects on the economic and social activities that occur in it. This course discusses how the price of a good varies by location, how the market price of a property varies over time, and how the structure of cities responds to market forces. The course discusses some public policy and managerial implications of the location dimension.

**Prerequisite(s):** ECON\*2310

**Restriction(s):** This is a Priority Access Course. Enrolment may be restricted to particular programs or specializations. See department for more information.

**Department(s):** Department of Economics and Finance

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## Lecture Schedule

MonWed 4pm-5:20pm in MACS\*209 (9/5 to 12/13)

## Instructor Information

**Diana Mok**

Email: mokd@uoguelph.ca

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## Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Urban Economics, 9th Edition	Arthur O'Sullivan	9780078021787

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## Learning Resources

### Required Resources

All assignments, lab instructions and relevant course material will be posted on CourseLink. The instructor will use CourseLink for course communication; please check CourseLink for announcements regularly.

### Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors/>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons/>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

## Library Course Reserve (Ares)

For this course, you will be required to access course reserve materials through the University of Guelph McLaughlin Library. To access these items, select **Ares** on the navbar in CourseLink. Note that you will need your Central Login ID and password in order to access items on reserve.

For further instructions on accessing reserve resources, visit [How to Get Course Reserve Materials \(https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/course-reserves-ares/\)](https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/course-reserves-ares/).

If at any point during the course you have difficulty accessing reserve materials, please contact the e-Learning Operations and Reserve Services staff at:

Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 53621 | Email: [libres2@uoguelph.ca](mailto:libres2@uoguelph.ca) | Location: McLaughlin Library, First Floor, University of Guelph

## Course Level Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to

- Understand some important theories in Urban Economics;
- Apply the theories to explain real-life phenomena;
- Critique the relevance and usefulness of these theories;
- Formulate statistical hypotheses to test the theories with real-life data;
- Interpret and assess the results within the context of the theories.

## Lecture schedule (subject to change)

Week of	Topic	Activities	Due
9/9	Introduction to Urban Economics		
9/16	Why do cities exist?		
9/23	How are land uses organized over space?		
9/30	How many cities are there?		
10/7	What is the state of the Canadian housing market?		Lab 1 due on Oct. 11
10/14	Thanksgiving Holiday		
10/16	What is the role of real estate in the 2008/09 financial crisis?		
10/21	Is there superstition in markets?		
10/28	Why do competing retailers tend to locate near each other?		
11/4	Why are there skyscrapers?		
11/11	Why do investors tend to hang onto losses but reap the gains?		Lab 2 due on Nov. 15
11/18	Does building more roads cause urban population growth?		
11/25	Mini "thesis defense"		Project due on Dec. 6

## Assessment Breakdown

The course has four (4) graded components.

Participation	10%	Throughout the term
Professionalism	10%	Throughout the term

Labs (groups of 2 students)	40%	due Oct. 11 at 11:59pm in Dropbox on CourseLink
Lab 1	(20%)	due Nov. 15 at 11:59pm in Dropbox on
Lab 2	(20%)	CourseLink
Term project (groups of 2-3 students)	40%	video and project submission due Dec. 6 at
(a) A 10-min (max) video demo	(15%)	11:59pm in Dropbox on CourseLink
(b) Project submission form	(20%)	
(c) 5-min in-class "thesis defense"	(5%)	

## Notes about Assessments

- Participation (10%):** Note that class attendance will not be counted as active participation. The mere physical presence can still lead to a participation grade of zero (0).
- Professionalism (10%):** All students are awarded with a grade of 7/10 for professionalism by default. We will design our terms of reference for what behaviors/attitudes would be considered as being professional during the first class. Any deviations from the terms will lead to a deduction of 1 point every time, even for repeated behaviors, until all professionalism marks are wiped out. To earn beyond a 7/10, students need to demonstrate exceptional leadership and/or collegial behaviors recognized by the peers.
- Labs (40%) and Term project (40%):** Students are expected to find their own group partner(s) themselves. The default is that all students in the same group would receive the same lab/project grade, unless the instructor receives complaints about an unfair division of labour for the work. In those circumstances, the instructor reserves the right to readjust the grade for all members within the group according to circumstantial evidence provided to the instructor. The instructor also reserves the right to adjust the members' professionalism grade if necessary.

**NOTE: Individuals can opt out from the group term project (not the "thesis defense") if the individual can publish a commentary article (usually ~750 words) in *The Globe and Mail* on any topics related to urban economics within the school term. In this case, the individual will be awarded with a full 40% for the term project by default upon completion of the mini thesis defense.**

## Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Fall 2024 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: November 29

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

## Course Grading Policies

### Late Assignment

Late submissions will be penalized by 1 percentage point per day late, including weekends and holidays. The penalty applies to all members within the same group in the case of group work. The instructor will not accept any late submissions after the assignment has been returned to the class.

## Course Standard Statements

### Course Technology Requirements

Students are expected to have access to either a desktop or a laptop with reasonable computing capabilities for using MS Office and specifically Excel. Some data analyses will be conducted based on Excel.

## Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

### Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>)

## Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

## Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

## Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

## Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

## Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigation/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

## Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

## Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

## **Resources**

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

## **When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)