

Cairo University
Faculty of Economics and Political Science
Department of Economics

Third Year

Course code (EE314): Urban Economics

Academic Year 2018/2019, Spring 2019

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Office Hours: 3 pm -4.30 pm (Sundays & Tuesdays); Office 81

➤ **Pre-requisites:**

- Introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics.
- Econometrics is not a prerequisite but will be helpful.

➤ **Course Objectives:**

The main objective of this course is to advance the understanding of the evolution of urban sector, and thus move further towards a comprehensive urban sector strategy. In this regard, there are numerous complex issues that need attention, many of which involve other economic sectors. Examples of these issues are: (1) what is the appropriate planning and building standards for urban development? (2) what are the strengths and weakness of new towns as an important element in urban development policies? and (3) how could a policy maker deal with issues related to informal urban development? In this course, basic principles of urban strategic planning and the political economy of mega projects are analyzed. In addition, the significant role of a number of international organizations, such as UN-Habitat and UNDP, in supporting private sector-led urban development projects is examined.

❖ **Intended Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the theoretical arguments regarding the urbanization process.
- Understand the strategic planning goals.
- Acquire critical reading, sound reasoning, academic writing, and improving students' presentation and speaking skills.
- Work in a group.
- Download data, analyze information, and discuss cases.
- Acquire a knowledge about preparing strategic urban planning reports.

❖ **Course Design and Content:**

The course covers main aspects of urban economics, namely: the economics of cities and urban problems; understanding the effects of geographic location on the decisions of individuals and firms; In this course, we will study the spatial distribution of activity within and across cities. To understand urbanization, we must consider the advantages that result from eliminating the distance between people. On the other hand, the course will also deal with city problems such as urban poverty, education inadequacy, poor public services, and crime. the course provides students with analytical and practical tools regarding (1) the prescribed

solutions for megacity problems, (2) strategic urban planning for small and metropolitan Cities, (3) the impact of urbanization on the expansion of labor market informality, particularly in developing countries.

The course structure and readings are described below.

➤ **Course Structure and Readings:**

Week & Date	Topic
<u>Week 1</u>	Nature of Urban Economics
	Evolution of Urban Economics
<u>Week 2</u>	Demography, Urbanization and Development
<u>Week 3</u>	Financing local economic development
<u>Week 4 & 5</u>	Urban strategic planning
<u>Week 6 & 7</u>	Causes and Consequences of Urban Growth
<u>Week 8</u>	Urbanization Processes in Developing Countries
<u>Week 9</u>	Urbanization Processes in Europe
<u>Week 10</u>	Economic Growth and Expansion of China's Urban Land Area
<u>Week 11 & 12</u>	Funding Capital-Intensive Urban Projects
<u>Week 13</u>	Explaining the Prevalence of Slums
<u>Week 14</u>	Egypt's Strategy for Dealing with Slums
<u>Week 15</u>	Discussions

➤ **Readings:**

- Arimah, B. (2010). Explaining the Prevalence of Slums in Developing Countries. *Working Paper No. 2010/30*.
- Bhatta, B. (2010). Causes and Consequences of Urban Growth and Sprawl. In *Analysis of Urban Growth and Sprawl from Remote Sensing Data* (pp. 17-36). Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg.
- EU. (2011). *Cities of Tomorrow - Challenges, Visions, Ways Forward*. European Union- Regional Policy.
- Jedwab, R., Christiaensen, L., & Gindelsky, M. (2017). Demography, Urbanization and Development: Rural Push, Urban Pull and... Urban Push? *the Journal of Urban Economics*, 98, 6-16.
- Swinney, P., & Thomas, E. (2015). *A century of cities: Urban economic change since 1911*. Centre for Cities: www.centreforcities.org.

- UN-Habitat. (2007). *Inclusive and Sustainable: a Guide for Municipalities*. United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

➤ **Useful links for data about the transport sector:**

- CAPMAS. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.capmas.gov.eg>
- The World Bank Group. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://data.worldbank.org/topic/infrastructure>
- UN-Habitat. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/>

➤ **Important notes:**

- I will post slide files on the course webpage before each week starts. The course webpage is (<https://ashraffeps.yolasite.com/>)



➤ **Evaluation:**

Item	Marks
Strategic Planning Report (approx. 4000 words, excluding reference/tables/ charts/. etc.) – Paper Deadline: Week 12.	10
Class participation	3
Presentation	3
Quiz 1: (3 rd week)	7
Quiz 2: (6 th week)	7
Quiz 2: (9 th week- optional)	7
Mid-term Exam	20
Final Exam	50

Note on Cheating and Plagiarism: Neither will be tolerated. All assignments, exams, and papers for this class are individual work. No notes of any sort may be used on assignments and exams. By handing in a paper, each student is affirming that this paper is her/his own personal work and that it was written by her/him.