
COURSE GOALS

Introduce students to underlying economic theory of real estate economics.

Explore topical issues in real estate economics and think critically about causal relationships.

Equip students with basic skills in data analysis using computer programs (Stata and GIS).

Evaluate real and potential public policy responses to urban issues, and consider impacts on real estate markets.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

<i>Participation</i>	10%
<i>Current Events Presentation</i>	10%
<i>Problem Set</i>	10%
<i>Midterm</i>	20%
<i>Research Paper</i>	50%

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Justin Tyndall

Email: justin.tyndall@sauder.ubc.ca

Office hours: TBD

Course duration: Jan. 3rd, 2018 – Apr. 6th, 2018

Pre-requisites: One of COMM 295, ECON 201, ECON 301

Course website: www.justintyndall.com/teaching

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to provide students with an introduction to economics that are the foundation for analysis of real estate markets. Students will study issues that are relevant to the different sectors of private real estate markets, as well as the relationship between the local economy and real estate, and the role played by government in real estate markets. A regular feature of the course is daily discussion of topics of current interest in real estate, urban economics, and urban policy. This allows for an application of the more general concepts covered in lecture to topics of immediate relevance. The major assignment for the class is a research paper. Understanding real estate markets is the result of careful and deliberate analysis. The second half of this course will focus on data analysis methods to enable clear economic analysis.

COURSE MATERIALS & REQUIREMENTS

Required Textbook: none

Reading Materials: Will be posted online at justintyndall.com/teaching

Optional Learning Resources:

Helsley R. (2016) Urban and Real Estate Economics.

O'Sullivan (2006) Urban Economics 6th Edition.

DiPasquale and Wheaton (1996) Urban Economics and Real Estate Markets.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Participation: A participation mark will be assigned to each student based on classroom participation and in class activities. Participation includes being engaged in class and contributing questions and discussion points. We will play some games in class, and complete some modules in labs. Your efforts in these games/modules will also contribute to your participation grade.

Current Events Presentation: You are required to give a brief class presentation (with slides) of a newspaper or magazine article. Assessment details will be made available on the course website.

Problem Set: A problem set will be made available on the website and submitted through email (justin.tyndall@sauder.ubc.ca). Working in groups is acceptable but every student must submit an assignment individually. It is your responsibility to ensure you understand the material. Of the 10% of your grade derived from the problem set, 5% will be given for submitting a completed assignment on time (before midnight on the due date) and the other 5% will be for providing correct and full solutions.

Midterm: The midterm will include everything covered in prior classes, all assigned readings, and the problem set. The midterm will be during regular class time.

Final Project: The course will culminate in a research paper. The paper will be completed in small groups. The topic will be proposed by your group and approved by me. The final report must include original data analysis, executed in Stata and GIS. Further details will be made available on the website.

Tough Stuff

No computers, phones or other electronic devices will be allowed during lectures. If you have specific needs that you feel requires the use of an electronic device, please discuss with me.

Plagiarism is not acceptable and will be judged according to university guidelines. You may be asked to submit your papers on electronic media in order that it may be tested for plagiarism. Working together is strongly encouraged on all assignments, but NOT on the midterm.

Midterm Attendance

Students who are absent from the midterm without a medical or religious excuse will receive a 0% grade.

- Religious accommodations must be requested at least two weeks prior to any exam.
- Evidence of a medical problem is required pursuant to UBC policy. See “Academic Concession” in the UBC Calendar for additional information as to qualifications.
- Should you qualify under “Academic Concession” a make-up midterm exam will be provided within 10 days of the initial midterm date. If under the “Academic Concession” clause you are not able to make-up the midterm, all remaining grade weight will be placed on the final paper.