The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:  
Advanced Urban Economics

Course Number:  
ECON 5453-301

Course Description:  
We conceive the course as a dialogue on the plight and prospects of American cities. Some would say that to focus on city problems ignores the good aspects of cities. I do not ascribe to that view. Almost every city has some difficulties, but all cities do not have the same ones. Thus, each city has strengths and weaknesses. To study problems is to study solutions, both in theory and in practice.

We do not intend to fall into the trap of teaching economics as a cure-all science. Economics alone will not save the city; but cities cannot be improved with a knowledge of economics any more than city betterment can be found in the absence of awareness about relevant disciplines such as public administration, public planning, political science, and human relations, among others. (The textbook has been chosen with this attitude in mind.)

Class Dates, Location and Hours:  
Dates: March 18-24, 2012
Location: Hangar 2, Room 102, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.
Hours: Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; M-F 6:00-10:00 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: February 18, 2012

Site Director:  
Mary Keller. Assistant: Novelda Sommers. Phone: 808-449-6364 (DSN & Commercial); Fax: 808-422-5509; E-mail: aphickam@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:  
Course Professor: Alexander Holmes, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma
Economics Department
729 Elm Ave., Room 329
Norman, OK  73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-2861
Fax Number: (405) 325-5842
E-mail Address: aholmes@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**Course Objectives:**

The student will be able to:

1. build and analyze urban location models; and
2. analyze public policy options concerning:
   a) racial discrimination,
   b) allocation of city government services, and
   c) housing and renewal.

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

**Reading Assignment: (Due Prior to Class Lecture) –**

You may use any recent edition of the text *Urban Economics*. The syllabus therefore needs to be more general and thus chapter titles are listed along with the major material in each rather than the chapter numbers, which have changed from edition to edition.

1. Role of cities.
2. What is urban economics?
3. Part I - all of this material. Of particular importance are chapters that deal with firm location using the Muth model
4. Part II - all of this material. Of particular importance is land rent, monocentric cities, and residential location using the Alonso model
5. Part IV - Here we are going to look at demand for public goods and racial sorting, and urban crime
6. Part VI - Here we will look at the Tiebout model in particular.

**Post Seminar Assignment:**

The student is to write a paper on a topic to be determined with the professor during the lecture period. The paper will allow the student to demonstrate applied knowledge from the class to a particular public policy problem. Due Date: 21 days from the last day of class.

**Grading:**

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Performance on comprehensive written examination on the last day of class will determine 80% of the grade of the student. The remaining 20% will be determined by the written paper discussed above.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>Last class session</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Seminar Assignment</td>
<td>21 Days from last day of class</td>
<td>20</td>
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NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Alexander Holmes, Ph.D.

Education
1970 Ph.D. in Economics, SUNY/Binghamton

Current Positions
• Advanced Programs Professor since 1974
• Regents’ Professor of Economics, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
• ECON 5453 Urban Economics
• ECON 5023 Statistics for Decision-Making

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
• Microeconomic Principles
• Statistics
• Applied Public Policy Research

Representative Publications and Presentations
• “Union Activity and Teacher Salary Structure,” Industrial Relations, 18, No. 1, (February, 1979), pp. 79-85.

Representative Honors and Awards Received
UOSA Professor of the Year, 1997

Major Professional Affiliations
• Microeconomic Principles
• Statistics
• Applied Public Policy Research