

# ECONOMICS OF CITIES (URBAN ECONOMICS) – ECON 4300

Fall 2025

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Bogyung Kim	<b>Time:</b>	Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:00 PM
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:bkim74@gsu.edu">bkim74@gsu.edu</a>	<b>Place:</b>	Langdale Hall Room 325

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 3-4 PM (at 55 Park Place NE, 7th Floor Lobby) or by appointment. For online office hour, login Webex link [here](#).  
*Please do not use iCollege email.*

## Course Content:

**I** This course will primarily be focused on the study of where economic activity takes place and why economic agents (individuals, firms, and governments) choose to locate near each other and in certain areas. We will also study economic activity that is inherently place-based such as the housing market and local government policy. The course will use economic theory and present empirical evidence (where available) to answer questions such as, “Why do cities exist?” “Why do firms locate near each other?” and “Who benefits from urban economic re-development?”

**Textbook:** *Lectures on Urban Economics*, Jan K. Brueckner

**Prerequisites:** ECON 2106, Principles of Microeconomics

## Important Dates:

Midterm (in-class) .....	Oct 15, 2025
Last day for Withdrawal .....	Oct 24, 2025
Thanksgiving (no class) .....	Nov 26, 2025
Class Ends .....	Dec 08, 2025
Final Exam (4:15-6:45 PM) .....	Dec 10, 2025

## Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify the economic forces that explain why cities exist.
- Students will be able to explain why firms agglomerate.
- Students will be able to define the concept of bid rent.
- Students will be able to describe location equilibriums and analyze how they can change.

- Students will be able to identify the factors causing urban sprawl.
- Students will be able to identify reasons for poverty concentration in urban areas.
- Students will be able to identify the different ways of measuring economic growth in an urban area and how these measures represent benefits to various groups.
- Students will be able to evaluate different government policies used for urban economic redevelopment and determine how they benefit various groups.
- Students will be able to use a sorting model to determine the allocation of local public goods across an urban area.
- Students will be able to evaluate different techniques economists use to identify racial discrimination in housing markets.
- Students will be able to explain the Median Voter Result.
- Students will be able to explain aspects of the housing market that differ from a standard market in economics.
- Students will be able to explain the Hedonic pricing technique and how it can be used to value different attributes in the housing market.
- Students will be able to explain how the User Cost model of housing can be used to find the price of a home.

**Assignments and Grading:**

The required work for this course includes assignments to be completed and uploaded to iCollege by the specified due date. I encourage you to work together on assignments. However, you must always submit your own completed assignment and write up answers in your own words. In addition to class participation and assignments, students will be graded on a mid-term and final exam. Assignments will be based on lecture; exams will be based on lecture and assignments. The best way to prepare for exams and complete assignments is to attend class. Exams will consist of both multiple choice and short answer/essay questions. Final exam will be 16:15 - 18:45 PM on December 10, 2025, in the classroom. The final exam is cumulative.

Students will be assigned a letter grade from the University letter scale: A+, A, A- B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, F. The final letter grade will be assigned based on student performance on assignments, and exams with the following weight:

Class Participation .....	10%
Assignments .....	25%
Midterm Exam .....	30%
Final Exam .....	35%

I reserve the right to increase the weight of the final in order to benefit students that significantly improve their grade from the midterm. Students who feel that an exam question was incorrectly or unfairly graded have the right to make a written appeal. The written appeal will be due one week from when the exam is handed back. The appeal should consist of a 1-3 paragraph explanation of why the student believes their answer deserves to be reconsidered and should be typed. Students who wish to request accommodations for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought.

**Missed Assignments and Exams:**

- *No make-up exams are given.* If a student misses the midterm exam for a valid reason (serious illness, death of a family member), the student will have their performance on the final exam weighted to make up for the lost exam. You will need an excused absence due to illness. GSU has a new process for students seeking excused absences through the Dean of Students Office. Please submit documentation to [here](#). I will then be notified by the Dean of Students of any excused absences. In the case of other valid reasons not covered by the Dean of Students Office, provide a signed, dated note explaining the absence, with a phone number of someone to verify the excuse. There is no make-up for the final exam, missing the final will result in a failing grade.
- *No exams will be distributed after the first 15 minutes of each exam period.*
- *No make-up assignments are given.* The lowest assignment grade will be dropped, and the four assignments are only including in your final grade. Assignments must be uploaded to iCollege by the date and time specified in iCollege.
- *Late assignments will not be accepted.*

**iCollege:**

I will post the syllabus, lecture slides, grades, and other important course information on iCollege. My primary way of communicating with you in this course is via iCollege, so please check it regularly.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance will be taken daily. Although attendance only does not directly affect your grade, class participation does. Attendance is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for class participation. All electronic communication devices are made inaccessible during lectures and exams. Violations of this policy during lecture will affect your class participation score. Violations of this policy during exams

will result in failure of the exam. Video recording is prohibited during lectures and exams. Audio recording of lectures and taking a picture is allowed only with the permission of the instructor.

**Use of AI Tools:**

Generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, are designed to assist in creating and analyzing text, code, video, audio, and other multimedia. Use of these resources in your coursework comes with benefits and risks. In this course, the rules for AI usage are as follows: You are not allowed to use a generative AI tool like ChatGPT only for any work in this course, including graded and ungraded work. Prohibited AI usage includes idea or text generation, writing or revising your work, development of media assets, or data analysis and presentation. Any unapproved use within the course might be considered a breach of academic honesty. While exercising responsible and ethical engagement with AI is a skill you may hone over time, your unique human insights, critical thinking, and creative contributions remain pivotal to your learning experiences and success.

**Student Illness:**

If a student develops a fever, cough or shortness of breath they should stay at home, not go to class or work, and stay away from other people. If a student becomes sick or is required to quarantine during the semester, they should notify me as soon as possible. Students who want to do well in this course will attend class following the class attendance policy. You will need an excused absence due to illness. GSU has a new process for students seeking excused absences through the Dean of Students Office. Please submit documentation to [here](#). I will then be notified by the Dean of Students of any excused absences.

**Academic Honesty:**

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Each student is responsible for knowing and following the academic honesty policies of Georgia State University (See Policy on Academic Honesty (Section 409)). All in-class exams in the course are closed-notes, closed-books exams. It is each student's responsibility to avoid any activity that suggests cheating on a test. Please refer to the Georgia State University Code of Conduct (available on-line at [here](#)) for further explanation of the University policy. Note that any student suspected of academic dishonesty WILL be referred to the Dean's Office and prosecuted to the fullest extent of University policy.

**GSU Diversity Statement:**

Georgia State University values diversity and is committed to fostering and maintaining an educational environment which appreciates individual differences in all areas of operation including classroom instruction, texts, and materials. To this end, any actions, practices, or processes by any faculty, staff person, or student

that discriminates against or is prejudicial toward any person or group based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status will not be tolerated.

**FERPA (Family Educational Rights Privacy Act) compliance:**

In keeping with USG and university policy, this course website will make every effort to maintain the privacy and accuracy of your personal information. Specifically, unless otherwise noted, it will not actively share personal information gathered from the site with anyone except university employees whose responsibilities require access to said records. However, some information collected from the site may be subject to the Georgia Open Records Act. This means that while we do not actively share information, in some cases we may be compelled by law to release information gathered from the site. Also, the site will be managed in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which prohibits the release of education records without student permission. For more details on FERPA, [go here](#).

**Students in need of Accommodations:**

Students who wish to request accommodation(s) for a disability may do so by connecting with the Access and Accommodations Center (AACE), see [here](#). To receive academic accommodations, a student must have an Accommodation Letter issued by AACE and provided to instructors of classes in which accommodations are sought.

For more information, contact the GSU Access and Accommodations Center  
Phone: (404) 413-1560, Email: [access@gsu.edu](mailto:access@gsu.edu), Website: [access.gsu.edu](http://access.gsu.edu)  
Address: Student Center East, Suite 304, 55 Gilmer Street, Atlanta, GA 30303

**Basic Needs Statement:**

Panther's Pantry aims to alleviate the stress associated with short-term food insecurity by providing food and basic necessities to the Georgia State Community. Currently enrolled students can visit Panther's Pantry once per week to receive 1 food bag + 1 hygiene bag per visit. We have Panther's Pantries at Atlanta, Decatur, Dunwoody, and Clarkston campuses. Students can access any of the locations for their weekly visit. You'll only need your PantherID card and to complete a short form upon arrival. Follow pantherspantry on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for location, hours, resources, cooking demos, recipes and more. Panther's Pantry also offers additional support to students in need of assistance with academics, housing, employment, mental health, and more. For additional information, visit [our website](#) or contact us via email [pantherspantry@gsu.edu](mailto:pantherspantry@gsu.edu).

**Sexual Harassment Statement:**

In instances of sexual misconduct, the present instructor(s) and teaching assistants, are designated as Responsible Employees who are required to share with

administrative officials all reports of sexual misconduct for university review. If you wish to disclose an incident of sexual misconduct confidentially, there are options on campus for you to do so. For more information on this policy, please refer to the Sexual Misconduct Policy which is also published in Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

**AYS Career Services and Student Life Offices:**

The Andrew Young School provides career support & leadership development services to all current AYS students and alumni. Students are invited to attend our career events and workshops, and individualized career counseling appointments can be arranged either with Colleen Perry, the Director of Career Services, or with University Career Services in the Student Center. Career Services can help students with résumé writing, interviewing, job searching, internship development, and networking. To see what career panels, career fairs, and events are available this semester, please visit: <http://career.aysps.gsu.edu/>

**Campus Carry Statement:**

The Campus Carry legislation allows anyone properly licensed in the state of Georgia to carry a handgun in a concealed manner on university property with noted exceptions. Information about the law can be found at [Campus Carry](#). It is the responsibility of the license holder to know the law. Failure to do so may result in a misdemeanor charge and may violate the Georgia State Student Code of Conduct.

**Campus Safety:**

Georgia State University values the safety of all university community members on all of our campuses. To promote campus safety, the university is providing the LiveSafe app free for all students, faculty, and staff. This app provides a quick, convenient, and discrete way to communicate with the GSU police. I strongly recommend that you download the app from either the Apple App Store or Google Play. You can sign-up for Panther Alerts and learn more about LiveSafe by visiting the GSU LiveSafe webpage: [Campus Safety](#). In addition, please make sure you have the campus police numbers in your phone.

For emergencies call 404-413-3333

For non-emergencies and to request a safety escort call 404-413-2100

If you are hearing impaired call 404-413-3203

**GSU Policy Prohibiting Students from Posting Instructor-Generated Materials on External Sites:**

The selling, sharing, publishing, presenting, or distributing of instructor-prepared course lecture notes, videos, audio recordings, or any other instructor-produced materials from any course for any commercial purpose is strictly prohibited unless explicit written permission is granted in advance by the course instructor.

This includes posting any materials on websites such as Chegg, Course Hero, OneClass, Stuvia, StuDocu and other similar sites. Unauthorized sale or commercial distribution of such material is a violation of the instructor's intellectual property and the privacy rights of students attending the class, and is prohibited.

\* The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Important University dates can be found in [academic calendar](#).