



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
Global
University

Built Environment

PLAN1004
City and Regional Economics



Course Outline – Term 1, 2020

Disclaimer

Information within this document is subject to change. The full and most accurate course outline will be available in Moodle closer to the start of the term in which the course is offered.

1. COURSE STAFF

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2. COURSE DETAILS

Credit Points	6 units of credit (uoc)
Workload	Approx. 150 hours including class contact hours, weekly individual and group online learning activities, readings, class preparation, and assessment activities.
Teaching Times and Location	Find details in timetable http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au

Description

This course provides a foundation of city and regional economics with a range of key economic concepts and models to shape urban land uses, firm locations and housing and labour market systems in cities. The course encompasses the following main areas: micro/macroeconomic processes that drive urban land use, governance and planning systems; market failures as the source of urban planning problems; development feasibility and the economic theories of urbanisation, gentrification and globalisation. In particular micro-economic and macro-economic processes underpin urban land-use patterns, property values, activity and transport systems. The processes of economic growth and decline are a perennial consideration of planning at different scales. Therefore the course focuses on development and planning across metropolitan and non-metropolitan regions. Students gain an understanding of how planning objectives are influenced by the aggregate impacts of uneven economic growth processes and economic behaviour. They gain familiarity with the potentialities and limitations of public policy in influencing spatial outcomes through studying economic issues and problems. Practical techniques for analysing spatial structure and development projects are introduced. Instruction is through lectures and tutorials.

Aims

The course provides an introduction to urban economic concepts to help students appreciate the process of land use development and the location of urban economic activity. The course seeks to explain land use patterns and the spatial structure of cities and regions at both the macro level – i.e. the broad structure or morphology of cities and regions from the perspective of supply, demand and costs associated with land, and at the micro level – i.e. the site perspective of land use and project feasibility (cost-benefit).

This course will enable students to explore and gain further understanding of why and how planners intervene in the urban land economy through the investigation of market failure and planning action (e.g. regulation, service provision, incentives), with a particular focus on urban housing markets.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

At the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Engage with economic concepts and models that help explain land values and the location of economic activity and that provide tools to influence the development of cities in the public interest.
2. Apply an understanding of the concepts of supply, demand and equilibrium to predict events in housing/labour markets.

3. Apply elementary concepts in urban growth theory and the potential for government intervention to promote growth.
4. Appreciate the role of the public and private sector in urban economic growth and their influence on urban property markets.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the effect of infrastructure provision on the use, development, management and value of land
6. Apply an understanding of the economic basis of urban social and environmental issues and the analytical tools to address them

3. ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Weight	CLOs Assessed
1. Assignment 1: Essay (1500 words)	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Assignment 2: Group presentation	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
3. Final Exam	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
4. Attendance and participation	10%	3, 4

4. COURSE IMPROVEMENT AND FEEDBACK

Feedback from students is an integral part of improving courses and teaching approaches. One of the primary mechanisms of feedback is myExperience, which we strongly urge all students to complete at the end of term. Course convenors use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. This is communicated in Moodle in the myFeedback Matters page.