Instructor Information
Instructor: Ryan George
Office: HH 218
Office Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 33169 (please do not leave voice mails)
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12-1PM
              Tuesday and Thursday 1-2 PM
Email: r22georg@uwaterloo.ca

The instructor will only respond to emails that include “Econ 483” in the subject line of the message.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

Course Description
The course examines the spatial dimension of economic activity by considering the location decisions of consumers and firms, the spatial distribution of industry and employment, and urban land use. We will study how spatial relationships inform many economic behaviours and contribute to urban development, and the reproduction of inequality.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes
By following the course students should

- learn how economists have adapted conventional micro- and macro-economic theory to study the economy of cities;

- gain an appreciation for interdisciplinary urban studies;

- develop their capacities to carry out research, write and speak publicly about theories, empirical work and policy questions.
Required Texts

Readings Available on LEARN

- Announcements, guidelines for coursework, lecture slides, seminar readings.

Course Requirements and Assessment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date of Evaluation</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Writing Assignment</td>
<td>Wednesday, Jan 24th</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>8 Wednesday meetings</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Research Essay
- Proposal
  - Wednesday, Feb 7th
  - 5%
- Final Paper
  - Wednesday, March 21st
  - 27.5%
- Presentation
  - March 26, 28 and April 2 during class
  - 2.5%

Final Examination
- Exam Period (scheduled by Registrar’s Office)
- 35%

Total
- 100%

Short Writing Assignment: Review Glaeser Chapter (10% of final grade)
In an essay of 1000-1250 words (4-5 double spaced pages) students will offer a summary of the main themes and an evaluation of the arguments of one numbered chapter of Edward Glaeser’s *The Triumph of Cities*. A sign-up list will be circulated in class. Due by submission to dropbox on Learn by 4:30pm on Wednesday, Jan 24th.

Seminar Participation (20% of final grade)
Over the course of the term there will be eight (8) scheduled seminar discussions during the Wednesday meeting time.

Students are expected to prepare for the discussion by doing the assigned reading and preparing notes. Students should be prepared to i) identify the argument of each author, and discuss how effective it is; ii) offer comments on the research questions, general approach taken and the practical and policy implications of the research.

Student evaluation will depend upon the quality of contributions, not just the quantity,
meaning the value of comments and questions offered in stimulating and developing discussion.

The discussions are an opportunity for students to improve how they speak on analytical subjects, but they also form part of the process of learning the material.

**Research Essay: Proposal, Paper, Presentation (5% + 27.5% + 2.5% of Final Grade)**

Students will be expected to prepare a research essay on a topic related to those studied in the course. Essays may be of a case-study, literature review, or empirical research form.

- **The Proposal** (5% of final grade): A proposal for the essay is due by submission to dropbox on Learn by 4:30pm on **Feb 7th**. It should be approximately 500 words in length, and include a research question, and a discussion of the relevance of sources and scholarly literature to studying the problem raised. A bibliography must be appended to the proposal.

- **Final Essay** (27.5% of final grade): The research essay itself is due by submission to dropbox on Learn by 4:30pm on **March 21st**. It should be a well-structured essay including an introduction with a clear thesis statement, a main body that includes an argument in support of the thesis statement and a discussion of sources used, and a conclusion. The length of the essay ought to be between 12 and 14 double spaced pages (12 point font), amounting to approximately 3000-3500 words. All uses of other authors’ writing must be clearly documented with footnotes or endnotes, and a bibliography.

- **Research Presentation** (2.5% of final grade): Students will be expected to present their research to the class during the final two weeks of the course meetings.

**Final Examination (35% of Final Grade)**

The comprehensive final exam will be scheduled during the formal exam period. The exam will require students to write several short essays in which they will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the models relating to urban economics and take a position in debates that were encountered.
# Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Introduction and Historical Survey</td>
<td>Lecture: Brueckner Ch.1</td>
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<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Location of Firms and Households</td>
<td>Lecture: Brueckner Ch.11</td>
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<td>Jan 10</td>
<td><strong>Seminar #1</strong></td>
<td>Seminar: Glaeser Intro, Ch.1-6</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Concentration of Industry – New Economic Geography</td>
<td>Seminar: Glaeser 7-9, conclusion</td>
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<td>Jan 17</td>
<td><strong>Seminar #2</strong></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Agglomeration Economies</td>
<td>Lectures: McCann “Spatial Distribution of Activities”</td>
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<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Hierarchy of Cities</td>
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<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Monocentric City Model</td>
<td>Lecture: Brueckner Ch.2-3</td>
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<td>Jan 31</td>
<td><strong>Seminar #3</strong></td>
<td>Seminar: Latzo “Geographic Concentration”, Henderson “Medium Sized Cities”, Dahms “Evolution of Settlement Systems”</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>Housing Demand and Tenure Choice</td>
<td>Lecture: Brueckner Ch.6</td>
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<td>Feb 7</td>
<td><strong>Seminar #4</strong></td>
<td>Seminar: Krivo “Housing and Wealth Inequality”, Filion et al. “The Entrenchment of Urban Dispersion”</td>
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<td>Feb 12 and 14</td>
<td>Housing Supply and Real Estate</td>
<td><strong>Seminar</strong>: -Green “The American Mortgage” Wyly et al, “Race, class and Rent” Crook, “Knowing the Area”</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Study Days – no lectures</td>
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**Short Writing Assignment Due Wednesday Jan 24th**

**Essay Proposal Due Wednesday Feb 7**
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Lecture/Reading</th>
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| 9      | Feb 26 Housing Markets and policy | **Seminar #6** Lecture: Brueckner Ch.7  
|        | Feb 28 Local Public Goods and Finance | **Seminar #7** Lecture: Brueckner Ch.8  
| 10     | March 5 Spatial Segregation and Poverty | **Seminar #8**  
|        | March 7 Research Essay Due Wednesday March 21 |  
Research Essay Due Wednesday March 21 |
| 11     | March 12 Cities and Poverty in Developing World Conclusion |  
Research Presentations |
|        | March 14 Research Presentations |  
Research Presentations |
| 12     | March 26 Research Presentations |  
Research Presentations |
| 13     | April 2 Research Presentations |  
Research Presentations |

**Course Readings**


McCann, “Spatial Distribution of Activities” Chapter 3 in *Modern Urban and Regional Economics*.


Missed Seminars and Late Penalties
If a student is unable to attend a seminar meeting for documented reasons her/his participation mark will be calculated on the basis of the remaining meetings. Late assignments and essays submitted without documented reasons will be penalized with a 2.5% reduction in the grade per day.

Electronic Device Policy
To avoid disruptions to the learning environment handheld devices must be turned off during the lecture and laptops must be used strictly for lecture-related purposes. If a student’s use of a laptop becomes a distraction for adjacent students that student will be asked to discontinue its use.

Attendance Policy
Lectures are an important component of the learning process and should be attended regularly.

Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy

Academic Integrity
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage and the Arts Academic Integrity webpage for more information.

Discipline
A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties).

Grievance
A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-...
procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals**

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

**Note for Students with Disabilities**

The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students who do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin® must inform the instructor within the first two weeks of classes, and agree to submitting rough work at various points in the term, or to some other mutually agreeable alternative.

**Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

**On Campus**

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek form Student Life Centre

**Off campus, 24/7**

- **Good2Talk:** Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- **Here 24/7:** Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME:** set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website
Download UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)
Download the WatSafe app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information