

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Econ 483 – Section 1**  
**Topics in Urban Economics**  
**Winter 2020**

**Monday and Wednesday 11:30-12:50 ML 349**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Ryan George

Office: HH 218

Office Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 33169 (please do not leave voice mails)

Office Hours: scheduled,

Monday – Thursday 2-3 pm or by appointment.

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 distribution of economic activity by considering the location decisions of consumers and firms in relation to geography, cumulative investments and state structures. 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 theory to study the economy of cities;
- gain an appreciation for interdisciplinary urban studies and economic geography;
- develop their capacities to carry out research, write and speak publicly about theories, empirical work and policy questions.

### Required Texts

Mario Polèse, *The Wealth and Poverty of Regions: Why Cities Matter*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009).

### Readings Available on LEARN

- Announcements, guidelines for coursework, seminar readings.

### Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
<i>In Class Contributions</i>		
Seminar Discussions	9 Wednesday meetings	25%
Lecture Attendance, Group Activity and Participation	Throughout term	12%
<i>Written Work</i>		
Regional Case Study	Presentation (February 3 or 5)	3%
	Paper (February 10 <sup>th</sup> )	18%
Local Housing Market Analysis	Presentation (March 2 or 4)	3%
	Paper (March 9 <sup>th</sup> )	18%
Essay on Urban Marginality	Presentation (March 30 or April 1)	3%
	Paper (April 6 <sup>th</sup> )	18%
<b>Total</b>		100%

### Seminar Participation (25% of final grade)

There will be nine scheduled seminar discussions. 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. Participation will be evaluated in terms of the quality of contributions, meaning the value of comments and questions offered in stimulating and developing discussion.

### Lecture Attendance, Group Activity and Participation (12%)

Weekly lectures will introduce conceptual material relating to the week's seminar readings. Students will be given in-class activities and will be invited to reflect on the topics introduced. Small group discussions in assigned groups may form part of the activities.

### **Regional Case Study (3% presentation; 18% essay)**

You will develop an analytical account of the development of a specific region and its cities that critically engages with the Polèse's discussion in chapters 1-4 of his book *The Wealth and Poverty of Regions*. You are encouraged to consider the alternative approaches introduced in class as resources for formulating analytical critiques.

Step 1. In class presentation of your argument: 5-7 minutes to make your case.

Step 2. Refine your analysis and write an essay of 750-1000 words (3-4 double-spaced pages).

**Due** by submission to dropbox on Learn by **4:30pm on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Local Housing Market Analysis (3% presentation; 18% essay)**

Students will use the analysis presented in a particular chapter of *Global Housing Markets* (on reserve in Porter Library) as a starting point for *investigating a question* about the development and/or performance of *local* housing markets in a particular region. Students must select a chapter of the book by enrolling in a group on Learn.

Step 1. In class presentation of your argument: 5-7 minutes to make your case.

Step 2. Refine your analysis and write an essay of 750-1000 words (3-4 double-spaced pages).

**Due** by submission to dropbox on Learn by **4:30pm on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Analysis of Urban Marginalisation (3% presentation; 18% essay)**

Students will engage with the readings for Seminar #8 and 9 and formulate an analysis of the processes of marginalisation and social integration in urban settings in a particular part of the world.

Step 1. In class presentation of your argument (March 30 or April 1): 5-7 minutes to make your case.

Step 2. Refine your analysis and write an essay of 750-1000 words (3-4 double-spaced pages).

**Due** by submission to dropbox on Learn by **4:30pm on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings for Lecture Background and Seminar
Jan 6	<b>Introduction</b>	
Jan 8	<b>Seminar #1</b>	Polese ch.1  Jacobs, "The Kind of Problem a City is" Ch.22 in <i>Death and Life of Great American Cities</i>
Jan 13	<b>Economic Geography and Agglomeration</b>	<b>Background:</b> Polese ch.2
Jan 15	<b>Seminar #2</b>	Krugman, "Space: The Final Frontier" <i>JEP</i> 12(2): 161-174.  Martin and Sunley, "PK's Geographical Economics" <i>Economic Geography</i> 72(3): 259-292.
Jan 20	<b>State action</b>	<b>Background:</b> Polese ch.3-4
Jan 22	<b>Seminar #3</b>	Laliberte and Satzewich "Native Migrant Labour in the Southern Alberta Sugar-beet Industry" <i>CRSA/RCSA</i> 36(1): 65-85.  Blomley, Nicholas (2008) "Law, property and the geography of violence" <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> 93(1): 121-141
Jan 27	<b>Organizations, markets, commodities</b>	
Jan 29	<b>Seminar #4:</b>	Cronon, "Pricing the Future: Grain" in <i>Nature's Metropolis</i> , 97-147.  W.R. Code, "Conclusion" in <i>The Spatial Dynamics of Financial Intermediaries</i> (PhD diss. UCB 1965), pp.308-328.
Feb 3 Feb 5	<b>Presentations of Regional Case Analysis</b>	
<b>Regional Case Analysis due February 10<sup>th</sup></b>		
Feb 10	<b>Internal differentiation</b>	

Feb 12	<b>Seminar #5</b>	Spigel “Bourdieu, culture, and the economic geography of practice: entrepreneurial mentorship” <i>Journal of Economic Geography</i> 17: 287-310.  McDowell L (2015) “The lives of others: body work, the production of difference, and labor geographies.” <i>Economic Geography</i> 91 (1): 1-23
Feb 17 Feb 19	Reading Week	
Feb 24	<b>Housing markets and policy</b>	
Feb 26	<b>Seminar #6</b>	Kadi, “Market-based reforms” <i>International Journal of Housing Policy</i> , 14(3): 268-292.  Berner “Poverty alleviation and the eviction of the poorest” <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> 24(3): 554-566.
Mar 2 Mar 4	<b>Presentations of Local Housing Market Analysis</b>	
<b>Housing Market Analysis due March 9<sup>th</sup></b>		
Mar 9	<b>Local public goods</b>	
Mar 11	<b>Seminar #7</b>	Hamilton, “Zoning and Property Taxation” <i>Urban Studies</i> 12: 205-211.  Nechyba and Walsh, “Urban Sprawl” <i>JEP</i> 18(4): 177-200.
Mar 16	<b>Concentrated Poverty</b>	
Mar 18	<b>Seminar #8</b>	Patillo “Negotiating blackness, for richer or for poorer” <i>Ethnography</i> 4(1): 61-93  Wacquant “Revisiting territories of relegation” <i>Urban Studies</i> 53(6): 1077-88.
Mar 23	<b>Slums – postcolonial – informal economy</b>	

Mar 25	<b>Seminar #9</b>	Breman and Agarwal, "Down and out: Laboring under global capitalism" <i>Critical Asian Studies</i> 34(1): 116-128.  Glaeser, "What's good about slums" in <i>Triumph of the City</i> : 69-91.
Mar 30 April 1	<b>Presentations on Urban Marginality</b>	
<b>Urban Marginality Analysis due April 6<sup>th</sup></b>		

**Missed Seminars and Late Penalties**

If a student is unable to attend a lecture or 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. Attendance at the seminar is obligatory.

**Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy**

Deferred Final Exam Policy found at <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/current-undergraduates/policies-and-resources/deferred-final-exam-policy>.

**Academic Integrity**

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo 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. Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information. 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](#).

**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. 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](#).

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

**Note for students with disabilities:** The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (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.

### **If you are using Turnitin® in your course**

**Turnitin.com and alternatives:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See [Academic Integrity - Guidelines for Instructors](#) for more information.

## **Mental Health Support**

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

### **On Campus**

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto: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 from 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: 519-749-4300 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 on 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