The Economics of Cities and Regions (ECO3202H1F)  
University of Toronto, 2011

Description

This course will explore recent developments in the economics of cities and regions, including the modelling and estimation of the productive advantages of cities, the sizes and functions of cities, urban growth and sprawl, and the evolution of regional inequalities. Both theory and empirics will be covered. While most of the readings are drawn from urban and regional economics, the course is designed so that it may be useful to students interested in a wide variety of topics. At the same time, a strong background in economics and quantitative methods is required to follow the course.

Instructor

Diego Puga (diego.puga@imdea.org)  
Office: Room 342, Max Gluskin House, 150 Saint George Street  
Office hours: Friday 10:00-11:00.

Time and location

Room GE100, Max Gluskin House, 150 Saint George Street (except 14 October, GE168).

- Thursday 15 September 18:00-20:00.
- Friday 16 September 14:00-16:00.
- Thursday 22 September 18:00-20:00.
- Friday 23 September 14:00-16:00.
- Thursday 6 October 18:00-20:00.
- Friday 7 October 14:00-16:00.
- Thursday 13 October 18:00-20:00.
- Friday 14 October 14:00-16:00 (different room, GE168)
- Thursday 27 October 18:00-20:00.
- Friday 28 October 14:00-16:00.
- Thursday 3 November 18:00-20:00.
- Friday 4 November 14:00-16:00.

Grading

- 50% written exam, during final exam period.
- 30% replication assignment, due 28 October (objective: to replicate the main results of a published paper from a given list).
- 20% class participation.
Programme and Reading list

1. The productive advantages of cities

Main reading


Additional reading


2. Urban congestion and housing

Main reading


3. Urban systems and city formation

Main reading


4. The motives for agglomeration: what generates aggregate increasing returns?

Main reading

5. Empirical analysis of agglomeration

Main reading


Additional reading


6. Specialization and diversification in cities

Main reading


Additional reading

7. Location and relocation over the life cycle

Main reading


8. The distribution of city sizes and urban growth

Main reading


Additional reading


9. Sprawl and suburbanization: causes and consequences

Main reading


10. Integration, increasing returns, and agglomeration

Main reading


Additional reading


11. The empirics of agglomeration and trade

Main reading


Additional reading
