

ECONOMICS 333 (Urban Economics): 2010-2011
Lecturer: Peter Tomlinson Ph.D. (ptomlinson@rogers.com)

Lecture Times: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 6:10 – 9:00.¹ Tuesday lecture content will be repeated Wednesday. Based on past attendance patterns, students will be free to attend on their preferred day, regardless of their registration section.

The midterm exam, which will be common to both sections, will be scheduled during the December exam period. The makeup midterm (for those with conflicts or illness on the December exam date) will be scheduled in January (either week of January 17 or week of January 24). The final exam will be scheduled by the Faculty of Arts and Science during the April exam period.

Text: O'Sullivan Arthur, Urban Economics (either 6th Edition: Irwin McGraw-Hill 2007 or 7th Edition, same publisher, 2009). Because the two editions are quite similar, either one can be used. The first two bullets below are correct for both editions. The other 3 bullets currently refer to pages in the 6th edition; corresponding pages in the 7th edition will be noted later.

Notes posted on the "Content" section of the web site expand on textbook material, and these notes constitute mandatory readings. The web site is accessible through the Portal link on www.utoronto.ca.

Problem sets will be found at the end of chapters in text (answers will be posted on "Content". No grade credit is attached to the problem sets. Grade credit is as follows: Mid-term exam: 50% weight toward course grade. Final exam: 50% weight toward course grade. Final exam is cumulative, although heavily weighted to material from after the midterm.

Office Hours for Peter Tomlinson: Wednesdays 3:30 – 5:00 pm Innis College café. There may be occasional re-scheduling, in which case an announcement will be posted on the web site – check for announcements if making a special trip.

Preliminary Reading List:

- Background to Urban Economics O'Sullivan, Chapter 1 (will not be discussed in class, but useful material for students to review on their own – particularly the "5 axioms" referred to in later chapters.
- Urban Land Markets: O'Sullivan, Chapter 6 (all), Appendix to Chapter 7. Material presented in class will begin here.
- Zoning and other Policies to Regulate Land Markets O'Sullivan, Chapter 9 pages 200-202.
- Urban Public Finance O'Sullivan, Chapter 8 (only the section entitled "SORTING FOR LOCAL PUBLIC GOODS" – pages 162-6 – is mandatory); Chapter 15 (all mandatory except section entitled "A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MEDIAN VOTER RESULT" pages 334-8); and Chapter 16 (all mandatory up to end of section entitled "THE TIEBOUT MODEL AND THE PROPERTY TAX" – ends on p 353).
- Road Congestion Model O'Sullivan, Ch. 10 all mandatory up to start of section entitled "THE ROAD CAPACITY DECISION" – begins on page 221).

¹ Until late October classes will run two hours. Once three-hour classes begin, the third hour will be allocated to exam review. New content will be limited to the first two hours.