

# Urban and Regional Economics (ECON-L6000)

Prottoy A. Akbar & Pablo E. Warnes

Period V, Spring 2022

## OVERVIEW

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Class Times	Mon & Thu 10.15 - 12.00	Instructors	Prottoy A. Akbar (prottoy.akbar@aalto.fi) Pablo E. Warnes (pablo.warnes@aalto.fi)
Lecture Location	T004, Ekonominaukio 1 (Mon) V001, Ekonominaukio 1 (Thu)	TA	Kimmo Palanne (kimmo.palanne@aalto.fi)

**Course Description:** This course will introduce students to the foundational work in urban and regional economics, as well as an overview of the more recent work in these fields. By the end of this course, students should be well acquainted with the tools and methods used to study explicitly spatial problems in the economic geography of regional and urban economics. They should also understand the key questions that drive these fields, and recognize the academic research done at the frontier of these fields.

## EVALUATION

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**Grading:** The final grade will be based on the following:

Referee Reports	20%
Paper replication	50%
Paper presentation	30%

**Referee Reports:** Every student will have to turn in four short referee reports on papers from four different lecture topics. The student will be able to choose the papers they wish to referee from a list that will be provided on the first day of classes, and that will include papers for each topic starting from lecture 3. For each topic, the report will be due at the beginning of the lecture on that topic.

**Paper replication:** Every student will have to turn in a report on a replication of a paper. The student will be able to choose which paper to replicate from a list that will be provided on the first day of classes. For each paper, there will be a guide (in the form of a problem set) that will help you through the replication process. All the questions in the guide must be answered in full in order to earn full marks. The paper replication will be due two weeks after the end of the course.

**Paper presentation:** Each student will have to present a published paper during one of the last two lectures. Students will be able to choose which paper they want to present from a list of papers that will be provided on the first day of classes. The goal of the presentation should be to present the paper as if the student had written it.

## COURSE OUTLINE (TENTATIVE)

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The tentative schedule of lectures is as follows:

Lecture	Date	Topic
1	21 April	Introduction to Urban and Regional Economics
2	25 April	Spatial equilibrium: canonical urban models
3	28 April	Housing markets
4	2 May	Land use, zoning and slums
5	5 May	Location sorting and preferences over amenities
6	9 May	Migration and urbanization
7	12 May	Quantitative spatial equilibrium models
8	16 May	Segregation and neighborhood effects
9	19 May	Regions, cities, and the environment
10	23 May	Transportation
11	25 May	Student presentations
12	30 May	Student presentations

## COURSE POLICY

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**Academic Integrity:** Students in this course will be expected to comply with the Aalto University Code of Academic Integrity.

**Disability Information:** If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you need to notify the instructor no later than the first week of the course period. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations.

**Classroom Recording:** To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students *may not* record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.