

Degree	Type	Year
Economics	OT	3
Economics	OT	4
Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OT	3
Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OT	4

Contact

Name: José Luis Roig Sabaté
Email: josepluis.roig@uab.cat

Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

Students taking this course are required to have previously taken courses of basic microeconomics and econometrics

Objectives and Contextualisation

The subject of Urban Economics has as an objective teaching the economic approach to analyze the urban phenomena. For this, we use the tools both from the theoretical as well as empirical point of view developed the last years in this field.

Therefore the aims of the subject can be summarized as follows:

1. The students should know and be able to use the main theoretical developments in the field
2. The students should know and be able to use the main tools for the empirical analysis in the field
3. The students should be able to pose relevant questions and develop a critical analysis in relation to the most important problems that affect the cities

Competences

Economics

- Capacity for independent learning in the future, gaining more profound knowledge of previous areas or learning new topics.
- Demonstrate initiative and work individually when the situation requires it.
- Identify the processes that govern the operation of markets in different competition systems, different scenarios of interrelationship and different timescales.
- Organise the work in terms of good time management, organisation and planning.

- Select and generate the information necessary for each problem, analyse it and take decisions based on that information.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

Contemporary History, Politics and Economics

- Assess the social, economic and environmental impact when acting in this field of knowledge.
- Explain and summarise knowledge acquired in English language at an advanced level.
- Identify the fundamental analytical principles in international economics, globalisation of market and processes of economic integration.
- Manage and apply data to solve problems.
- Relate fundamental questions of the current economic situation with previous economic developments on the basis of the main elements of contemporary economic history.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Work cooperatively in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams implementing new projects.

Learning Outcomes

1. A capacity of oral and written communication in Catalan, Spanish and English, which allows them to summarise and present the work conducted both orally and in writing.
2. Analyse regional labour markets.
3. Analyse urban labour markets.
4. Apply the most relevant theories on the location of economic and human activity in the territory.
5. Assess urban growth and the formation of city systems.
6. Capacity to continue future learning independently, acquiring further knowledge and exploring new areas of knowledge.
7. Demonstrate capacity to adapt to changing environments.
8. Demonstrate initiative and the capacity to work autonomously when the situation requires.
9. Demonstrate initiative and work independently when required.
10. Demonstrate the capacity for oral and written communication at an advanced level of English using complex concepts.
11. Demonstrate the capacity for oral and written communication in Catalan, Spanish and English which allows the work to be summarised and presented orally and in writing.
12. Demonstrate the capacity to continue working in the future autonomously gaining a deeper understanding of the knowledge acquired or embarking on new areas of knowledge.
13. Describe the historical evolution of the strategic factors determining the development and location of industry.
14. Interpret sustainability in urban and territorial contexts.
15. Lead multidisciplinary and multicultural teams, implement new projects, coordinate, negotiate and manage conflicts.
16. Make decisions in situations of uncertainty and show an enterprising and innovative spirit.
17. Organise work in relation to good time management and planning.
18. Organise work, in terms of good time management and organisation and planning.
19. Select and generate the information necessary for each problem, analyse it and make decisions accordingly.

20. Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
21. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
22. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
23. Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
24. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

Content

1. Introduction

- What is urban economics?
- What is a city?
- Why do cities exist?

2. Economies of agglomeration

- Typology of economies of agglomeration
- Microfoundations of economies of agglomeration
- Measurement of economies of agglomeration

3. Urban spatial structure

- Urban land rent
- Model of monocentric city
- Models of policentric city
- Density functions

4. Urban size and system of cities

- Benefits and costs of urban size
- Urban Size and industry mix of cities
- Urban size distribution
- Urban growth

5. Inequality and city

- The measurement of segregation
- Causes of segregation.
- Costs of segregation

6. Sustainability and city

- Sustainability and urban form
- Costs of the urban dispersion
- Policies against urban dispersion
- Urban transport policy

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Practical classes	17	0.68	1, 6, 8, 9
Theoretical classes	32.5	1.3	2, 4, 5, 12, 14
Type: Supervised			
Follow up of reports	6.5	0.26	2, 4, 5, 1, 8, 14
Tutorials	6	0.24	2, 4, 5, 1, 12, 8, 14
Type: Autonomous			
Individual study	88	3.52	2, 4, 5, 8, 14, 17

Teaching will be offered on campus.

The theoretical sessions consist in the development of the different contents of the subject. The students can use the main textbooks as well as additional material and supplementary bibliography for each topic.

The practical classes consist in the development of the required empirical methods to understand the empirical evidence enabling the students to interpret results. Data sets are delivered to the students to use the different methodologies explained in the classes.

Some practical classes will be devoted at the discussion of policy issues taking a relevant text as a starting point. These discussions should enable students to use the knowledge acquired in the theoretical lectures

The proposed teaching methodology may undergo some modifications according to the restrictions imposed by the health authorities on on-campus courses

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final exam	40%	0	0	2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 6, 12, 11, 14, 24, 23, 20
Midterm exam	35%	0	0	2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 6, 12, 14, 24, 23, 22, 20
Problem sets	25%	0	0	2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 6, 7, 12, 10, 8, 11, 13, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18, 16, 23, 22, 21, 19

This subject/module does not offer the option for comprehensive evaluation

The evaluation will take place according to the following weightings of the activities:

1. Final exam 40%
2. Midterm exam 35%
3. Problem sets 25%

All students are required to perform the evaluation activities. The two exams (midterm and final) require a minimum score of 3.5 each. When this threshold is not reached

(that is, when the mark is below 3.5) the score of the correspondent exam that will be considered for the final mark will be zero. The marks of the other activities to complete the final evaluation do not require a minimum threshold.

The subject is approved with a final mark of 5. In the case of a final mark less than 3.5, the student will have to take to the subject in the following year.

Students who have obtained a final mark that is equal to or greater than 3.5 and less than 5 are eligible for a retake exam. The lecturers will decide the type of the retake exam. When the mark of the retake exam is greater than 5, the final mark will be PASS with a maximum numerical score of 5. When the mark of the retake exam is less than 5, the final mark will be a FAIL with a numerical score equal to the mark

previously achieved (not the mark of the retake exam).

A student who does not perform any evaluative task is considered "not evaluable", therefore, a student who performs a continuous assessment component can no longer be qualified with a "not evaluable"

Calendar of evaluation activities

The dates of the evaluation activities (midterm exams, exercises in the classroom, assignments, ...) will be announced well in advance during the semester.

The date of the final exam is scheduled in the assessment calendar of the Faculty.

"The dates of evaluation activities cannot be modified, unless there is an exceptional and duly justified reason why an evaluation activity cannot be carried out. In this case, the degree coordinator will contact both the teaching staff and the affected student, and a new date will be scheduled within the same academic period to make up for the missed evaluation activity." Section 1 of Article 264. Calendar of evaluation activities (Academic Regulations UAB).

Students of the Faculty of Economics and Business, who in accordance with the previous paragraph need to change an evaluation activity date must process the request by filling out an Application for exams' reschedule: [e-Formulari per a la reprogramació de proves](#).

Grade revision process

After all grading activities have ended, students will be informed of the date and way in which the course grades will be published. Students will be also be informed of the procedure, place, date and time of grade revision following University regulations.

Retake Process

"To be eligible to participate in the retake process, it is required for students to have been previously been evaluated for at least two thirds of the total evaluation activities of the subject." Section 2 of Article 261. The recovery (UAB Academic Regulations). Additionally, it is required that the student to have achieved an average grade of the subject greater than or equal to 3.5 and less than 5.

The date of the retake exam will be posted in the calendar of evaluation activities of the Faculty. Students who take this exam and pass, will get a grade of 5 for the subject. If the student does not pass the retake, the grade will remain unchanged, and hence, student will fail the course.

Irregularities in evaluation activities

In spite of other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate, and in accordance with current academic regulations, "in the case that the student makes any irregularity that could lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluation activity, it will be graded with a 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that can be instructed. In case of various irregularities occur in the evaluation of the same subject, the final grade of this subject will be 0". Section 11 of Article 266. Results of the evaluation. (UAB Academic Regulations).

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks, such as search for references or other information, text correction, or translations. The student must clearly identify which parts have been generated using this technology, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and the final outcome of the activity. If the student fails to disclose the use of AI in any of the activity subject to evaluation will be considered a lack of academic integrity with a partial or total penalization for the grade of the activity.

Bibliography

Main textbooks:

Jan K. Brueckner (2011) Lectures on Urban Economics. The MIT Press.

Arthur O'Sullivan (2018) Urban Economics. 9th edition. McGraw-Hill

Roberto Camagni (2002) Economía Urbana. Antoni Bosch Ed.

Additional reading lists and material by topic will be available at campus virtual

Software

The software mainly used is: GRETL, Stata and Excel

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	1	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed