Instructor: Jon Sonstelie, jon@econ.ucsb.edu, 893-2242

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m., South Hall 1430

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., North Hall 2038

Reading: The readings for the course have been assembled in a booklet sold by the campus bookstore. The schedule below lists the readings for each lecture.

Exams: There will be a midterm exam on Wednesday, January 31, a midterm on Friday, March 2, and a final from 4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 22. Each midterm will consist of one essay questions, and the final with consist of three essay questions.

Paper: Each student is required to write a paper about a neighborhood he or she selects. The paper will use data from the 2000 Census to describe residents of that neighborhood. The paper cannot exceed 15 double-spaced pages and is due in lecture on Friday, March 9. More details about the paper will be provided in lecture on Friday, January 12.

Grading: The midterm, final, and paper will each receive a letter grade (A, A-, B+ and so on). The grade points for each letter grade will then be averaged with the following weights: first midterm 15%, second midterm 15%, final 40%, and paper 30%. The course grade will be determined by this weighted average.

Schedule:

January 8, Monday: Introduction

January 10, Wednesday: An Introduction to Los Angeles

January 12, Friday: Census Data, Class Project

January 15, Monday: Holiday
January 17, Wednesday:  Why Do Cities Exist?

January 19, Friday:  Localization Economics

January 22, Monday:  What Limits the Growth of Cities?
   Carey McWilliams, *Southern California: An Island on the Land*, 1946, Chapter VII, “Years of the Boom,” pp 113-137

January 24, Wednesday:  City Growth and Land Rents

January 26, Friday:  From Land Rents to Land Values

January 29, Monday:  The Single Tax

January 31, Wednesday:  First Midterm Exam

February 2, Friday:  Land Values and Building Heights

February 5, Monday:  Population Density

February 7, Wednesday:  Guest Lecture—Barry Berkus, Berkus Design Studios

February 9, Friday:  Household Income and Residential Location
   Tom Slater, “The Downside of Upscale,” Los Angeles Times, July 30, 2006

February 12, Monday:  Commuting Modes and Residential Location
February 14, Wednesday: Urban Subcenters

February 16, Friday: Highway Congestion

February 19, Monday: Holiday

February 21, Wednesday: California’s Urban Transportation Problem
Tracy Gordon and co-authors, Fiscal Realities, Public Policy Institute of California, 2007, Chapter 8, “Transportation.”

February 23, Friday: Racial Segregation

February 26, Monday: Racial Segregation and Unemployment

February 28, Wednesday: The Market for Public School Quality

March 2, Friday: Second Midterm Exam

March 5, Monday: Financing California’s Public Schools
Jon Sonstelie, Eric Brunner, and Kenneth Ardon, For Better or For Worse? School Finance Reform in California, Public Policy Institute of California, 2000, Chapters 1, 2, and 3. pp 1 - 65.

March 7, Wednesday: The Public School Voucher
March 9, Friday: Home Mortgages, Paper Due in Lecture.

March 12, Monday: Renting versus Owning

March 14, Wednesday: Is There a Housing Price Bubble?

March 16, Friday: Wrap-up, Teaching Evaluations

March 22, Thursday, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: Final Exam