Economics 120 –Urban and Regional Economics, Spring 2007

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

Lectures: MWF, 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m., Building 387, Room 101

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., North Hall 2038

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

Exams: There will be a midterm exam on Friday, April 20, a midterm on Friday, May 18, and a final from 12:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12. Each midterm will consist of one essay question, and the final will consist of three essay questions. Answers will be graded by a numerical score from zero to four (F=0 and A=4).

Paper: Each student is required to write a paper about a neighborhood he or she selects. The paper will use data from the Census to describe residents of that neighborhood. The paper cannot exceed 15 double-spaced pages and is due in lecture on Friday, June 1. More details about the paper will be provided in lecture on Friday, April 6. Papers will also be graded by a numerical score from zero to four (F=0 and A=4).

Daily Quizzes: Each lecture period will begin with a short essay question about the reading assigned for the day. Quizzes will be graded on a two point scale (1 for satisfactory and 0 for unsatisfactory). There will be 23 quizzes in all. Grades for these quizzes will summed, and the sum converted to a numerical score according to the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sum</th>
<th>Numerical Score</th>
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<th>Numerical Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>8-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0-5</td>
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Course Grade: The scores for the midterms, quizzes, paper and final will be averaged with the following weights: first midterm 10%, second midterm 10%, final 30%, quizzes 20%, and paper 30%. This weighted average will determine your course grade as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weighted Average</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>Weighted Average</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.85-4.00</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>2.15-2.50</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.50-3.85</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>1.85-2.15</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.15-3.50</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>1.50-1.85</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.50-2.85</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>0.00-0.50</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Schedule:

April 2, Monday: Introduction

April 4, Wednesday: An Introduction to Los Angeles

April 6, Friday: Census Data, Class Project

April 9, Monday: Why Do Cities Exist?

April 11, Wednesday: Localization Economics

April 13, Friday: 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.

April 16, Monday: City Growth and Land Rents

April 18, Wednesday: From Land Rents to Land Values

April 20, Friday: First Midterm

April 23, Monday: The Single Tax
April 25, Wednesday: Land Values and Building Heights

April 27, Friday: Population Density

April 30, Monday: Household Income and Residential Location

May 2, Wednesday: Commuting Modes and Residential Location

May 4, Friday: Guest Lecturer: John Caunt, Hos Brothers

May 7, Monday: Urban Subcenters

May 9, Wednesday: The Market for Public School Quality
Huell Howser, “Union Bank,” Video Lab, second floor, Kerr Hall

May 11, Friday: Guest Lecturers: Jeff Adkison and Rob McRitchie, Heisman Properties

May 14, 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.

May 16, Wednesday: The Public School Voucher

May 18, Friday: Second Midterm.
May 21, Monday: Highway Congestion
   Brooking Institute, Washington, D.C., 2004, Chapter 10, “Peak-Hour and Other Road Pricing,” and Appendix B.

May 23, Wednesday: California’s Urban Transportation Problem
   Tracy Gordon and co-authors, *Fiscal Realities*, Public Policy Institute of California,
   2007, Chapter 8, “Transportation.”

May 25, Friday: Racial Segregation

May 28, Monday: Memorial Day

May 30, Wednesday: Racial Segregation and Unemployment

June 1, Friday: Home Mortgages, Paper Due in Lecture.

June 4, Monday: Renting versus Owning

June 6, Wednesday: Is There a Housing Price Bubble?

June 8, Friday: Wrap-up, Teaching Evaluations

June 12, Tuesday, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Final Exam