Economics 120
Urban Economics
Jon Sonstelie
What is Urban?

- King City
- San Francisco
- What’s the difference?
Goals

- Spark your curiosity about cities
- Show you how economics is applied
- Sharpen your communication skills
- Encourage you to think critically
- Get you involved
Week 1, March 31 – April 4

Monday: Introduction

Wednesday: An Introduction to Los Angeles
Four LA Times Articles

Friday: Census Data, Class Project
O’Sullivan Text
Week 2, April 7 - 11

Monday: Why Do Cities Exist?
Jane Jacobs, Detroit

Wednesday: Localization Economics
Zhang, Silicon Valley

Friday: No Class
Week 3, April 14 - 18

Monday: What Limits the Growth of Cities
Carey McWilliams, Early Los Angeles

Wednesday: City Growth and Land Rents
Henry George, Early San Francisco

Friday: Land Rents and Land Values
Henry George
Week 4, April 21 – 25

Monday: The Single Tax
Henry George

Wednesday: First Midterm

Friday: Jeff Adkison and Rob McRitchie
Huell Howser, Union Bank
Week 5, April 28 – May 2

Monday: Land Values and Building Heights
LA Times article, 7th and Fig

Wednesday: Population Density
O’Sullivan

Friday: Household Income and Residential Location
LA Times Articles, “The Downside of Upscale” and “Develops, industry battle for L.A.’s heart”
Week 6, May 5 - 9

Monday: Commuting Modes and Residential Location
LeRoy and Sonstelie

Wednesday: Urban Subcenters
Giuliano and Small

Friday: The Market for School Quality
Fischel
Week 7, May 12 – 16

Monday:  Financing California’s Public Schools
         Sonstelie, Brunner, and Ardon

Wednesday: Highway Congestion
           Downs

Friday:  California’s Urban Transportation Problem
         Gordon and others
Week 8, May 19 – 23

Monday:  Racial Segregation
Rasmussen and George

Wednesday:  Second Midterm

Friday:  Racial Segregation and Unemployment
Rafael
Week 9, May 26 – May 30

Monday: Memorial Day

Wednesday: Home Mortgages, Paper Due
            DiPasquale and Wheaton

Friday: Renting versus Owning, Paper Due in Lecture
Week 10, June 2 – June 9

Monday:  Was There a Housing Price Bubble?  
          Himmelberg, Mayer, and Sinai

Wednesday:  Are Cities Dying  
            Glaeser

Friday:  No class today
Final Exam

Tuesday, June 10, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Economics 120 Reader

UCEN Bookstore
Project

☐ A description of an urban neighborhood
☐ Use census data
☐ 15 page limit
☐ Due Friday of week 9
☐ Discuss this Friday
Daily Quizzes

- One short essay question at the beginning of each lecture on assigned reading
- Score (1 or 0)
- 23 quizzes
Example Question

According to the LA Times article by David Pierson, what are the important trends in Chinatown in Los Angeles?
A Satisfactory Answer

The culture of Chinatown is changing. The older stores that focused on selling traditional Chinese art and jade are being replaced by modern, avant garde art galleries.
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Grading

- Midterm 1 (one essay question)
  - 10 percent of grade
- Midterm 2 (one essay question)
  - 10 percent of grade
- Final (three essay questions)
  - 30 percent of grade
- Daily Quizzes on Reading
  - 20 percent of grade
- Paper
  - 30 percent of grade
Office Hours

- Monday and Wednesday 2:00-3:30
- North Hall 2038
- jon@econ.ucsb.edu
- 893-2242
Integrating the Reading

☐ I preview before end of each lecture
☐ You read before next lecture
☐ I ask you a question about the reading at the beginning of each lecture
☐ I explain/expand on reading in lecture
☐ I give you a question from the readings/lecture at end of lecture.
☐ You outline an answer
☐ Exam time: I pick from those Qs
A Challenging Course

Survey from last quarter

Hours per week (in addition to lecture)

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Class Website

- www.econ.ucsb.edu
- Class Pages
- Econ 120
- Contents
  - Lectures
  - Exam Questions
  - Grading Rubrics
  - Handouts for project
Reading for Wednesday—Four Los Angeles Neighborhoods

☐ Leovy, MacArthur Park
☐ Kang, Koreatown
☐ Pierson, Chinatown
☐ Khalil, Skid Row

☐ Articles on Class Website
  ■ www.econ.ucsb.edu
  ■ Class pages—Econ 120