

Topics in Urban Economics

Spring 2026

Department of Economics, National Chung Cheng University

Instructor: 洪以儒 (Yi-Ju Hung)

Lecture: Thursday 9:10-12:00, College of Management 336

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Course Description

Location matters. Economic activities vary across space. Locations shape individuals' labor market opportunities, residential choices, schooling, and accessibility to consumption and services. For firms, locations determine the cost of inputs and outputs, the level of competition, accessibility to markets, local regulations and policies, and, thus, profits. The aggregation of individuals' and businesses' location decisions affects the size and performance of cities and regions.

This course will be taught in Mandarin, though most, if not all, course materials will be in English. The course, Topics in Urban Economics, designed for students with an advanced understanding of microeconomics and econometrics, introduces core ideas and models in urban economics, especially related to city formation, size, productivity, and housing prices. In this course, we will apply microeconomic concepts to understand the differences in economic activities across spaces. We will also investigate the role of cities and regions in aggregate economic development. Finally, we will discuss applications to related fields in economics, including labor economics, economics of race and discrimination, environmental economics, and other socioeconomic topics related to spaces.

Another main goal of this course is to introduce research strategies, modeling tools, and potential measurement and identification problems while studying urban economics. These tools and methods can also be useful in various economic topics, especially for your thesis.

Evaluation

1. Participation: 10%

2. Problem Sets: 30%

3. Referee Report: 20%
4. Presentation: 40%

Problem Sets & Referee Report: Details will be discussed in our first class.

Presentation: Students should present once or twice throughout the semester, depending on the class size. The format and length of the presentation will be discussed in the first class. Asking questions while others are presenting is required; it will be counted as part of the credit in participation.

Outline

The syllabus, lecture slides, and all reading materials will be uploaded to eCourse2. We plan to discuss the following topics (tentative):

1. Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity; What is a City?
2. Agglomeration Forces
3. Migration/Immigration & Its Consequences
4. Climate Change and Location Choices
5. Segregation
6. Neighborhood Effects

Week	Date	Topics	Presentation	Psets
1	2/26	Introduction		
2-3	3/5, 12	Spatial Patterns		
4-6	3/19, 26, 4/2	Agglomeration Forces		
7-9	4/9, 16, 23	Migration & Its Consequences		
10	4/30	Adapting Climate Change		
11-12	5/7, 14	Segregation		
13-14	5/21, 28	Neighborhood Effects		
15	6/4			
16	6/11			