

Syllabus

Name:			
(Applied) Regional and Urban Economics			
Responsible:			
Prof. Wolfgang Dauth, Assistant Professor of empirical regional and international economics			
Program:	Type:	Term:	ECTS:
Bachelor	Lecture	Summer	6 CP
Contents & Objectives:			
<p>Many basic economic theories do not consider the physical distance between households and/or firms. Yet, distance matters! The fact that moving goods, people and ideas is costly shaped the world we live in and continues to do so even when costs for transport and communication decline. Today, more than half of all humans live in dense cities and by 2050 this share will rise to 2/3.</p> <p>The aim of this course is to develop an economic understanding on why cities exist, how they developed and how they work. During the lecture, we will introduce theories on the most relevant topics in urban economics in a non-technical but rigorous way. Students learn how to explain facts that we observe in reality by using rigorous economic reasoning: Why are high-rises located in the center of the city? Why does population density vary between cities of the same size? Why do crime rates vary across neighborhoods? This knowledge will then be applied to discuss real-world policies such as zoning restriction, traffic tolls, housing subsidies or place based policies.</p> <p>The complementary tutorial will intensify the theoretical knowledge by solving numerical exercises and discussing empirical studies.</p>			
Prerequisites:			
Students should have an interest and basic knowledge in microeconomics			
Course Structure:			
Chapter	Content		
1	Motivation – why cities exist		
2	Analyzing Urban Spatial Structure		
3	Modifications of the Urban Model		
4	Urban Sprawl and Land-Use Controls		
5	Freeway Congestion		
6	Housing Demand and Tenure Choice		
7	Housing Policies		
8	Local Public Goods and Services		
If time permits:			
9	Pollution		
10	Crime		
11	Urban Quality-of-Life Measurement		
12	Zipf's Law and the Rank-Size-Rule		
13	Local Labor Markets		
14	Place based policies		

Literature:

Readings: Lecture Slides and References

Lecture slides will be provided through WueCampus.

A detailed list of references with further references, notably journal articles, is provided with each chapter of the lecture.

Readings: Books

[1] Brueckner, Jan K. (2011), Lectures on Urban Economics, MIT Press

Grading:

Written Exam (60 min.)

Contact:

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