

## **ECON3720 Urban and Regional Economics and Policies 2011-12**

**Location:** 137 Isbister (may be changed) **Time:** MWF 11:30-12:20

**Instructor:** W. Simpson  
518 Fletcher Argue Bldg.  
Phone 474 – 6174  
Email: [Wayne\\_Simpson@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Wayne_Simpson@umanitoba.ca)  
Web: <http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~simpson/>

**Office Hours:** Mon. 9:30-10:30 and Wed 12:30-1:30. Students who wish to meet at other times should contact the instructor to make mutually convenient arrangements.

**Required Text:** Philip McCann, *Urban and Regional Economics* (Oxford University Press). The text provides a modern, integrated approach to the study of urban and regional economics from an international (primarily US and UK) perspective. Additional material will be posted on my website at [http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~simpson/TM\(Current%20Teaching\).html](http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~simpson/TM(Current%20Teaching).html) to expand on important topics or to apply the ideas and concepts to the Canadian context. The section on urban transportation will expand on the text and follow Edwin S. Mills and Bruce W. Hamilton, *Urban Economics*, fifth edition, ch. 13, available at the reserve desk of the UM Dafoe Library.

### **Calendar Description:**

<p>ECON 3720 - Urban and Regional Economics and Policies (3 credit hours) (Formerly 018.372) An introduction to the study of the determinants of the spatial distribution of economic activity among urban centres and regions. Particular attention will be paid to such contemporary Canadian problems as regional disparities, urban and environmental decay, and urban renewal, and the policy issues involved in dealing with these problems. Prerequisite: a grade of "C" or better in ECON 2450 (018.245) or ECON 2451 (018.245) or ECON 2700 (018.270).</p>
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### **Course Objectives:**

The course will provide students with an introduction to the study of spatial economics and its application to urban and regional economies and policies. Particular attention will be paid to the Canadian context with supplementary reading and classroom discussion. The course will assume that students have acquired a good understanding of the principles of microeconomics as a basis for many analytical concepts introduced in the course. The course will introduce the student to institutional features and statistical evidence relevant to understanding issues concerning Canadian urban and regional economies. It will assume some familiarity with the internet and a spreadsheet

program such as Excel to download and handle data. (A number of good and free Excel tutorials are available by googling "Excel for beginners.") Assignments and examinations will allow students to demonstrate their understanding of the course materials and their application to urban and regional problems, and will be governed by the University's policy on plagiarism and cheating at <http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar09/regulations/plagiarism.asp> and the University's policy on examination impersonation at [http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar09/regulations/exams/exams\\_personations.asp](http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar09/regulations/exams/exams_personations.asp) in the online University of Manitoba General Calendar.

### **Course Outline:**

The objective of the course will be to cover selected topics from the text (as indicated in parentheses below), supplemented with other material as appropriate:

- 1) Location of the firm (ch.1)
- 2) Space and economic activity (ch.2)
- 3) Urban spatial structure, transportation<sup>\*</sup>, and urban policy (ch.3, 7.1-7.2)
- 4) Regional economic analysis (ch.4)
- 5) Urban and regional labour markets (ch.5)
- 6) Regional economic growth and policy (ch.6, ch.7.3), as time permits

<sup>\*</sup> This section will draw on Edwin S. Mills and Bruce W. Hamilton, *Urban Economics*, fifth edition, ch. 13, available at the reserve desk of the UM Dafoe Library.

### **Course Requirements and Weighting:**

- (1) Three term tests (20% each; dates TBA)
- (2) Set of assignments (40%)

Electronically submitted assignments must have the student's name at the beginning of the file name.

Students will not be permitted to write make-up tests or miss assignment submission deadlines except for documented medical or compassionate reasons. All deadlines must be met unless **prior** permission of the instructor for medical or compassionate reasons is obtained. Alternative grading schemes resulting from missed examinations and assignments will be at the sole discretion of the instructor.

### **Final Course Grade Determination:**

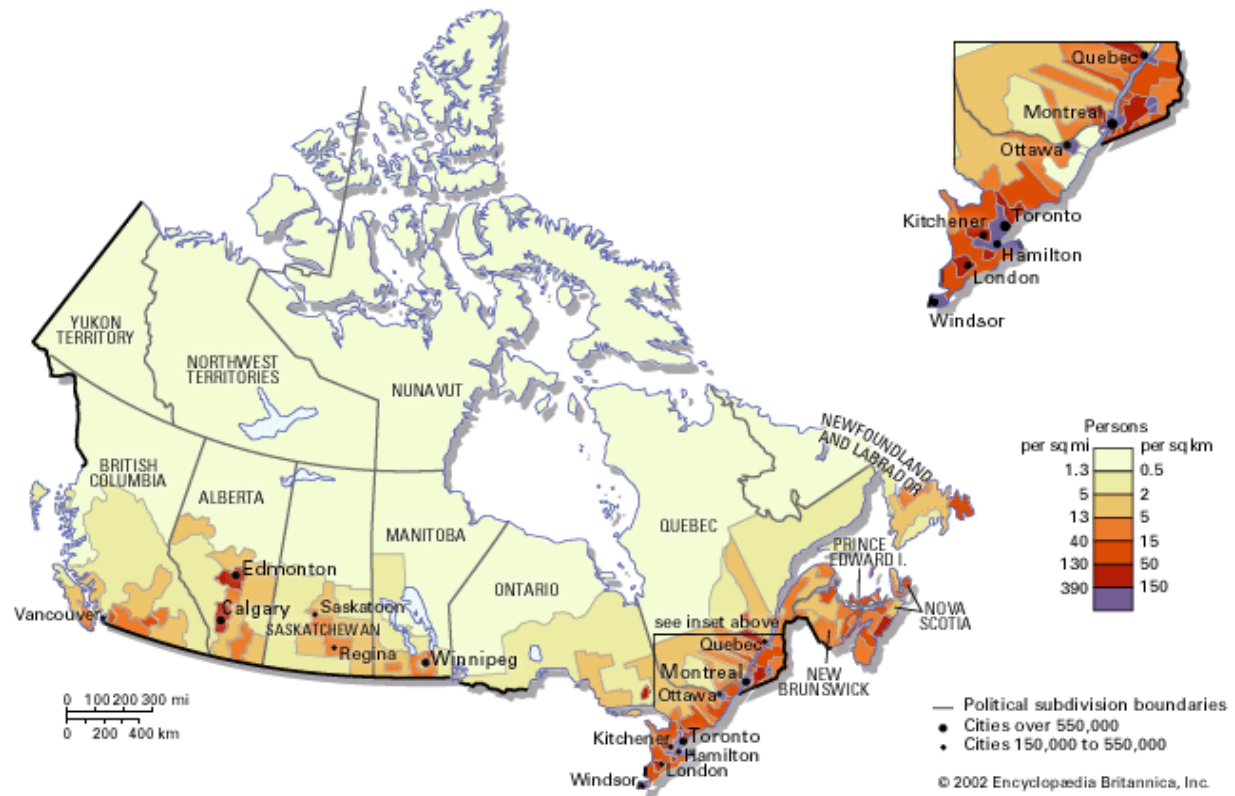
A+ = (90+);  
A = (80-89);

B+ = (74 - 79);  
B = (68 - 73);  
C+ = (62-67);  
C = (56 - 61);  
D = (45-55);  
F = (below 45)

Final grades are subject to departmental review and revision.

### Course Regulations:

- The Voluntary Withdrawal date for this course is **November 16, 2011**
- Students must acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism and cheating at <http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar09/regulations/plagiarism.asp> and the University's policy on examination impersonation at [http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar09/regulations/exams/exams\\_personations.asp](http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar09/regulations/exams/exams_personations.asp) in the online University of Manitoba General Calendar. Students who violate this policy will be subject to serious academic penalty. The common penalty in the Faculty of Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is F for the paper and F(CW) (CW indicates compulsory withdrawal) for the course. The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F(CW) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty of Arts. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty or plagiarism, including repeat violations and purchase of a paper, the penalty can include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses offered in the Faculty of Arts. The Faculty reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.
- Students will not be permitted to write make-up tests or miss submission deadlines except for documented medical or compassionate reasons. All deadlines must be met unless **prior** permission of the instructor for medical or compassionate reasons is obtained.
- Students appealing term work, whether formally or informally, must do so within ten working days of receiving their mark. Unreturned term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction four months after the final examination period.
- Students are responsible for making sure that their cell phones and other communication devices are turned off during class. Students are not permitted to answer phones or other communication devices during class without exception. Students who violate this policy may be asked to leave class and meet with the instructor at a mutually agreed time before returning to class.



Sources: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic-art/91513/71476/Population-density-of-Canada>