

## Syllabus

[cmcd.economia@fgv.br]

**Course: Urban Economics**

**Professor:**

**2026 SECOND SEMESTER**

### COURSE OUTLINE

This course explores theoretically and empirically a range of topics related to the economics of cities. The course begins with a discussion of the modeling and estimation of agglomeration economies. It also discusses models of housing markets and housing policy, with a focus on topics that are relevant to the urbanization of developing countries, such as the understanding of the causes and consequences of slums. Additional themes covered in the course are local labor markets, transportation, and place-based policies. The course will discuss how urban economics relates to other areas, such as public, environmental, macro, development, labor, and regional economics.

### METHODOLOGY

The course is intended to prepare students to do applied research in several topics in urban economics. Half of the course discusses structural empirical applications, while the other half is dedicated to reduced-form empirical applications.

### PROGRAM

Topics	Class
Empirical Methods in Urban Economics	1
Agglomeration: Theory	2,3
Agglomeration: Empirics	3,4
Local Labor Markets	5,6
Slums	7,8
Housing Policies	9,10, 11
Place-based Policies	12, 13
Transportation	14

Housing, Consumption and Macroeconomics	(extra)
Land Use Regulation	(extra)

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\* = *main papers*

### I. Empirical Methods in Urban Economics

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#### **IV. Local Labor Markets and Spatial Equilibrium**

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Brueckner, J., 1987, "The Structure of Urban Equilibria: A Unified Treatment of the Muth-Mills Model," in E. S. Mills, ed., *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, Volume 2. (classic handbook chapter)

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## **V. Slums and Housing in Developing Countries**

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## **VI. Housing Policy: Public Housing, Rent Subsidies, Rent Control.**

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## **VII. Place-based Policies**

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## **VIII. Transportation**

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### **EXTRA: Housing, Consumption and Macro**

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Mian, A., Rao, K., and Sufi, A., 2013. "Household Balance Sheets, Consumption, and the Economic Slump." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128(4), 1687–1726.

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### **EXTRA: Land Use Regulation**

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## **GRADING**

Mock referee report of a paper (homework assignment 1): 15%  
Mock referee report of a paper (homework assignment 2): 15%  
Presentation of your project's idea: 20%  
Writeup of project proposal (homework assignment 3): 35%  
Class participation: 15%

## **PROFESSOR – EMAILS**