

Instructor Name: Ross,Matthew Bucciarelli	Term: Spring 2020	Evaluation Type: Final	Class Description: URPL-GP 2608-001 (6424) - Urban Economics (Lecture)
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36 out of 41 students completed the survey.

Survey Response Rate: 87.8%

Course Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer %	
Overall evaluation of the course.	3.9	36	100.0%	5 - Excellent	8	22.2%
				4 - Good	17	47.2%
				3 - Adequate	11	30.6%
				2 - Poor	0	0.0%
				1 - Very Poor	0	0.0%
The course objectives were clearly stated.	4.2	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	12	33.3%
				4 - Agree	18	50.0%
				3 - Neutral	6	16.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The course was well organized.	4.1	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	10	27.8%
				4 - Agree	19	52.8%
				3 - Neutral	6	16.7%
				2 - Disagree	1	2.8%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The course was intellectually stimulating.	4.2	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	13	36.1%
				4 - Agree	18	50.0%
				3 - Neutral	4	11.1%
				2 - Disagree	1	2.8%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
This course is appropriately rigorous for a graduate level course.	4.2	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	12	33.3%
				4 - Agree	19	52.8%
				3 - Neutral	5	13.9%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The required readings were worthwhile.	3.8	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	8	22.2%
				4 - Agree	17	47.2%
				3 - Neutral	7	19.4%

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
				2 - Disagree	4	11.1%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
As a student, I feel like I satisfactorily achieved the course's learning objectives/competencies.	4.1	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	11	30.6%
				4 - Agree	19	52.8%
				3 - Neutral	3	8.3%
				2 - Disagree	3	8.3%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The content of this course overlapped too much with other Wagner courses (if agree, please list which course(s) in the Comments section below).	2.4	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	2	5.6%
				4 - Agree	3	8.3%
				3 - Neutral	7	19.4%
				2 - Disagree	21	58.3%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	3	8.3%
Where relevant, the course included opportunities to explore issues of diversity such as race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, or ability.	4.3	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	18	50.0%
				4 - Agree	11	30.6%
				3 - Neutral	6	16.7%
				2 - Disagree	1	2.8%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%

Instructor Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
Overall evaluation of the instructor.	4.1	36	100.0%	5 - Excellent	10	27.8%
				4 - Good	20	55.6%
				3 - Adequate	5	13.9%
				2 - Poor	1	2.8%
				1 - Very Poor	0	0.0%
The instructor provided an environment that was conducive to learning.	4.3	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	13	36.1%
				4 - Agree	19	52.8%
				3 - Neutral	4	11.1%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor provided helpful feedback on assessed class components (e.g., exams, papers).	3.8	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	8	22.2%
				4 - Agree	14	38.9%
				3 - Neutral	11	30.6%
				2 - Disagree	3	8.3%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor explained difficult concepts effectively.	4.0	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	9	25.0%

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	# of Responses to the Answer	Answer %
				4 - Agree	19	52.8%
				3 - Neutral	8	22.2%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor responded well to questions and comments.	4.3	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	17	47.2%
				4 - Agree	14	38.9%
				3 - Neutral	5	13.9%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor facilitated relevant discussion (as appropriate for the class).	4.1	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	13	36.1%
				4 - Agree	14	38.9%
				3 - Neutral	8	22.2%
				2 - Disagree	1	2.8%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor provided clear expectations and graded fairly.	4.1	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	15	41.7%
				4 - Agree	14	38.9%
				3 - Neutral	4	11.1%
				2 - Disagree	3	8.3%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor was available outside of the classroom.	4.2	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	13	36.1%
				4 - Agree	17	47.2%
				3 - Neutral	6	16.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor created an atmosphere where diverse viewpoints and ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	4.2	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	15	41.7%
				4 - Agree	14	38.9%
				3 - Neutral	7	19.4%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor created an atmosphere where students from diverse backgrounds can be engaged effectively.	4.1	36	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	14	38.9%
				4 - Agree	14	38.9%
				3 - Neutral	7	19.4%
				2 - Disagree	1	2.8%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%

Demographic Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who	Question Response	Answer	# of Responses	Answer %
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		Answered the Question	Rate	to the Answer		
What is your student status?		36	100.0%	Full-Time	30	83.3%
				Part-Time	6	16.7%
In what semester are you currently enrolled?		36	100.0%	1st	2	5.6%
				2nd	22	61.1%
				3rd	5	13.9%
				4th	4	11.1%
				5th	1	2.8%
				6th+	2	5.6%
Which program are you enrolled in?		36	100.0%	EMPA	0	0.0%
				EMPA-Nurse Leaders	0	0.0%
				MHA	0	0.0%
				MPA-Health	0	0.0%
				MPA-PNP	2	5.6%
				MSPP	3	8.3%
				MUP	30	83.3%
				Other	0	0.0%
				PhD	0	0.0%
				Undergraduate	1	2.8%
How many hours per week, on average, do you spend on the course outside of class?		36	100.0%	More than 15	0	0.0%
				11-15	1	2.8%
				5_10	14	38.9%
				Less than 5	21	58.3%

Course Comments

Which topics and class sessions did you find most and least valuable? What other topics do you suggest the instructor include?

- I was very happy to see transportation added and crime was interesting to me, given that it's something I haven't discussed in any of my other courses.
- Honestly we covered a lot of topics - many that I would not have assumed in a traditional urban econ class (like policing). It was great to have access to papers from so many topics. Since I am a planner, I would have liked something on rezoning or the economics of zoning (although this topic was touched upon in many classes but on the primary focus).
- poverty class was the most valuable. another topic that would have been interesting are urban economic policies aimed at reducing inequality.
- Understanding poverty in relation to race was useful, whereas the concept of sprawl did not seem particularly valuable to me.
- I suggest the instructor discuss nuanced industrial jobs in urban areas.
- I enjoyed the housing discussions most since that's where I saw the most application of economic concepts.
- Agglomerations of Cities and Land Use were valuable
I would have liked to see a class dedicated to impacts of climate change on cities and economic
- I found the conversations about land and labor markets, and how they shape the physical structure of cities, to be the most useful, and imagine they will inform my practice as a planner in the years to come. Professor Ross also engaged forthrightly with racism and discrimination throughout the course, which present essential and complex sets of issues that planners should actively work to undo through practice. On the whole, I think more detailed conversation around housing policy would have been beneficial, as would a more in depth discussion of public health and environmental considerations.
- i liked the session on transportation
- Topics on housing were particularly robust and as a student who isn't specializing in this track, I feel like I will be able to carry my own in the professional environment with regards to housing.
- Most valuable was the one where he talked about his own research. The least valuable were the missed ones and there was more chance to have better discussions in class. Not sure about the

Which topics and class sessions did you find most and least valuable? What other topics do you suggest the instructor include?

structure of the class either, he explicitly said that he wasn't used to teaching econ and it showed. He seemed to hit a stride/theme at the end but too little too late. Also didn't feel like I got what I paid for in terms of the professor and the amount of missed classes we had.

- Most valuable: housing markets, land markets, clustering and agglomeration. These were the topics I enjoyed the most. All the topics were informative for me and may prove useful in the future.
- I really enjoyed the entire course. I felt it was a great overview of Urban Economics. Crime, Poverty and Household Sorting were my favorite topics.
- Tutoring
Topics good
- I think that the topics covered in the class were very valuable. I would have liked to have a class on how the pandemic can alter city economies given the current situation.
- Housing and poverty. I would suggest including more information on the limits of neoclassical economic theory. We brushed on it but it is worth giving students a clear picture on where supply and demand curves fall short to explain the reality. This can leave us with more motivation to study this topics.
- I found the portions of the class that discussed agglomeration economies and knowledge spillovers most valuable. This is both out of personal interest and due to the fact that the professor appeared to be very well-versed in the realm.
- I found that almost all the topics were relevant and valuable. I would have liked to see how climate change affected the topics we covered when relevant. I appreciated that the topics weren't solely focused on NYC as well.
- I really like learning about spillover effects, externalities, and employment multipliers. Agglomeration is such an strong undercurrent in urban economics, but I also like the balance of learning about the big waves that are happening on the surface of the field.
- Most valuable was talking about system racism through an urban economics lens, which appeared several times throughout various lectures. Can't say there was a least valuable topic because everything that was talked about what very important. I think there could have been more talk about the COVID-19 crisis as it relates to this course heavily, but it is also important to learn the principles of the original agenda.
- I enjoyed all of the lectures. I'm glad we added in a transportation lecture
- I found the class sessions that detailed economic models and equations most valuable, since these are concepts that I wouldn't be able to understand without the professor, and they were interesting. I found the classes on crime, policing, race, poverty, and education to be a fun way to wrap up the semester.
- I think all the classes was valuable since I enjoyed learning new things in each session.
- The second half of the course was FAR more stimulating than the first half. I especially enjoyed the classes where Matt was able to speak about his own research. It would have been nice to have those more interesting classes earlier in the semester and then covering the dryer topics like land and labour markets later in the semester when we were already engaged.
- I really appreciated getting to learn about Matt's research and area of expertise, near the end of the class.

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of your learning experience in this class including course design, learning objectives/competencies, readings, technology, usefulness of assignments, teaching quality, etc.

- I liked how flexible Professor Ross was. The memos were a good practice. I think that as someone who is not an "econ" person, this is a great way to get me to research and then use the information in a way that is more of "real life" practice. I thought the professor had great anecdotes and it made it fun to listen.
- The lectures are always interesting topics. I think the readings from the textbook seem unnecessary. It is a lot of Professor Ross just lecturing but he is very good at it.
- This is not a comment on the class, but the way the course uses two main textbooks to advance knowledge of these topics. Textbooks were not useful, stimulating or an effective way to engage the course.
- The grading structure doesn't make much sense and didn't create a full evaluation of the work. For example, if one person grades an essay 4/5 while two people grade it as a 3/5, this class would've given us a 3.33/5. It's hard to discern what exactly was missed and the average lowers the potential

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score. The highest score given for a question should be the recorded grade. In this example, the grade would hold as a 4. This gives the student every point possible rather than exposing the score amongst three graders.

- Professor Ross came prepared to class with well put together slides
It might have been helpful to have practice problems before the midterm and final
It also might have been nice to have guest speakers come into class
- This semester was bonkers, obviously, and I believe Professor Ross did an admirable job given the circumstances and lack of time to prepare. On the whole, the course would benefit from a more structured relationship between the readings and the course material.
- There was a lot of reference to the quality of Prof Ellen's course versus the one we received by Prof Ross. I can't help but feel we did not receive the same course quality as we would have with Prof Ellen
- i liked the notes from the readings... class improved from the beginning of semester.. matt was good especially considering the whole zoom thing.. wasn't a huge fan of the midterm
- ^^
- Strengths:
 1. A reasonable number of assignments and exams that encourage students to think critically about the material.
 2. Policy memos allowed me to research areas that I am interested in and view them in a new light.
- The beginning of the course I wasn't sure about the outcomes of how the semester would be, but I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed the course.
- Some racial comments were passed and degrading comments about the poor and minorities
reference of 3rd world: not a good statement, use developing countries.
- The professor was fun and engaging. He presented the information in a very straight forward and easy to follow manner. The assignments were useful to summarize key concepts and also dive a little deeper into others. The course design made sense though I wish we had some class time to review key concepts from the midterm.
- Found the lectures to cover a lot of material. Would suggest more focused lectures. Same with the readings, it is pointless to have so much readings assigned. We don't even discuss them in class. People don't read all of them (as I have talked with classmates)
- Professor Ross should reflect on how he speaks about certain populations.
Saying (literally) that "low income people don't manage their money well" or "putting low income people altogether will make them criminals" is offensive and inaccurate. There are much more sensitive and more articulate ways to convey findings of research and systemic and structural factors that contribute to financial exclusion, exploitation and crime outcomes that do not patronize and condescend to low income people.
Every class there was a careless comment that perpetuated stereotypes about certain marginalized populations. For instance, the Bronx was consistently referred to as a high crime and poor borough which perpetuates inaccurate and offensive assumptions about the very diverse population that lives there. I highly recommend professor Ross reflect and work on this component of his teaching.?

Secondly, presentation slides often had typos indicating to me a lack of care for the work and effort that should go into teaching NYU Wagner students.?

- I enjoyed the policy memo assignments in particular. I thought they were a great way to apply the things we were learning to a topic we were interested in (and refining your memo-writing skills never hurts).
- I appreciated that the memos we had to write required us to implement a policy as opposed to just writing about a policy that has already been implemented. I, again, appreciated that we were able to select the location of our policy memo. Also, I appreciated that the grading was rigorous as opposed to being an easy grader. I felt like I actually earned the grades that I was given.

I do think that for future classes, it would be better to expect more of your students. Comments like "if you want to listen or not" made it seem like you were sometimes less invested in teaching.

- I honestly feel the courses got better and more structured after transitioning to Zoom than when we were in a classroom; Matt's delivery became a lot stronger and more deliberate. While much of what is discussed is regionally specific to the Northeast, I like that he's willing to push discussion in

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directions of students' home turf when they can supply enough data to thread a story. Matt may get a lot of benefit from going to Toastmasters to work on his usage of filler words, though.

- I actually preferred the class structure when it moved to remote learning. I thought it was easier to follow and allows for a more lecture-style experience, which allows for more ideas/experience to come from the professor, even though it may sacrifice some learning from peers.
- I think having a concrete syllabus with concrete due dates would have been helpful. But I understand that this semester was a bit crazy.
- I liked the distribution of assignments. By having 4 major assignments, the burden of the class was less than it would be had we had a bunch of smaller assignments. The content of the lecture was very comprehensive of the weekly topics. I enjoyed the professor's casual teaching style, as it was engaging and easy to follow for the duration of class. I looked forward to attending class each week!
- Teaching quality was good and the content of the classes were very interesting. His presentation was well organized and it was easy to understand.
- I like that there were accompanying notes for every presentation or topic that we learned. However, I feel as though there needs to be more instruction for the policy memo assignments.
- The policy memos were a good way of presenting what we learned in a practical manner. However, I felt that there was a disconnect between things we learned in lectures and the midterm (final not taken yet so can't say).
- It would have been very helpful to have the readings in the NYU Classes site instead of having to find them ourselves. It's hard to teach Ingrid Gould Ellen's class because she has big shoes to fill. I missed her expertise on housing, but appreciated Matt's expertise on policing.
- I think perhaps more emphasis could have been put on understanding broader picture theories and ideas before delving into specific examples.
- Teacher was lazy, didnt post readings on classes, asked us to find them ourselves.