

EC2880A: The Rise and Fall of Great Cities
FASStrack 2024

Schedule: AM Session (10am-1pm, Singapore Time)
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

Course Description

Cities have existed for more than 10 millennia. They enable trade, self-protection and social expression. They also create the need for politics, law, and administration.

This module introduces students to the subject of economics, drawing on applications from cities to illustrate introductory concepts such as demand, supply, and externalities. We will use economic theory to investigate the phenomenon of cities. We study both ancient and modern cities to determine reasons why cities form. Then, we explore the success and failures of cities at fulfilling the purposes of their formation. Finally, we discuss how cities should be managed to achieve “greatness.”

Preclusion/ Prerequisite

Nil

Lecturer

Timothy Wong, Senior Lecturer, timwong@nus.edu.sg

Course Assessment

Assessments		Assessment deadlines
In-class participation	15%	N/A
In-class quizzes	45%	4,9,16 July
Essays	20%	17, 22 July
Group Presentation	20%	19 July
Total for CA:	100%	

- In-class participation (15%): Students assessed based on the quality of their contributions to class discussions.
- In-class quizzes (45%): Three in-class quizzes (15% each) on microeconomic theory.
- Essays (20%): Two essays (10% each) on urban topics.
- Group Presentation (20%): One 20-minute group presentation on a field trip

Course Topics

Week	Day	Topic	Session Activities
1	Tuesday, 2 nd July	Introduction to Microeconomics I: Trade, Demand	
	Wednesday, 3 rd July	Introduction to Microeconomics II: Supply	
	Thursday, 4 th July	Introduction to Microeconomics III: Perfect Competition	<i>In-class quiz #1</i>
	Friday, 5 th July	Introduction to Microeconomics IV: Monopoly	
2	Tuesday, 9 th July	Why Do Cities Exist: Innovation and Consumption	<i>In-class quiz #2</i>
	Wednesday, 10 th July	No class	Field Trip to Pasir Panjang
	Thursday, 11 th July	Introduction to Microeconomics V: Negative Externalities, Asymmetric Information and Public Goods	
	Friday, 12 th July	Overcoming Urban Failures: Crime, Health and Congestion	
3	Tuesday, 16 th July	Overcoming Urban Failures: Segregation, Poverty, Conservation	<i>In-class quiz #3</i> Field Trip to Geylang
	Wednesday 17 th July	No Class	Field Trip to Geylang
	Thursday 18 th July	Group Presentations	
	Friday 19 th July	Group Presentations	