

**EC2880A: The Rise and Fall of Great Cities**  
**FASStrack 2026**

**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**

<b>Assessments</b>		<b>Assessment deadlines</b>
Participation	10%	N/A
In-class quizzes	50%	2, 7 and 17 July
Field trip reports	20%	13 and 19 July
In-class activities	20%	10 and 17 July
<b>Total for CA:</b>	<b>100%</b>	

- Participation (10%): Students assessed based on the quality of their contributions to class discussions.
- In-class quizzes (50%): Three in-class quizzes (10%, 20% and 20%) on microeconomic theory.
- Field trip report (20%): One-page submission after each field trip.
- In-class group activities (20%): In-class small group discussion and presentation.

**Course Topics**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Session Activities</b>
<b>1</b>	Tuesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Introduction to Microeconomics I: Trade, Demand	
	Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Introduction to Microeconomics II: Supply	
	Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Introduction to Microeconomics III: Perfect Competition	In-class quiz #1
	Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Introduction to Microeconomics IV: Monopoly	
<b>2</b>	Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Why Do Cities Exist: Innovation and Consumption	In-class quiz #2
	Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> July	No class	Field Trip to Pasir Panjang/City Gallery
	Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Introduction to Microeconomics V: Externalities Overcoming Urban Failures: Congestion and Pollution	
	Friday, 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Overcoming Urban Failures: Conservation and Safety	
<b>3</b>	Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Introduction to Microeconomics VI: Public Goods and Asymmetric Information Overcoming Urban Failures: Affordability	
	Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Overcoming Urban Failures: Segregation	Field Trip Geylang
	Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> July	No Class	
	Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> July	In-class group activity	In-class quiz #3