The seventh edition of "Urban Economics" continues to be the market leading textbook due to its thorough content and concise writing style. The new edition continues to cover urban economics as the discipline that lies at the intersection of geography and economics. "Urban Economics" incorporates the remarkable progress in the field of urban economics from the last fifteen years. It also explores the location decisions of utility-maximizing households and profit-maximizing firms, and it shows how these decisions cause the formation of cities of different size and shape. The framework of this edition continues to be divided into six sections. Part I explains why cities exist and what causes them to grow or shrink. Part II examines the market forces that shape cities and the role of government in determining land-use patterns. Part III looks at the urban transportation system. Part IV uses a model of the rational criminal to explore the causes of urban crime and its spatial consequences. Part V explains the unique features of the housing market and examines the effects of government housing policies. Part VI explains the rationale for our fragmented system of local government and explores the responses of local governments to intergovernmental grants and the responses of taxpayers to local taxes.

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The class was very interesting, but more importantly, the book offered an updated view on local government, education, crime and other topics. Everything was pretty well put into perspective. It doesn’t have a lot of drawings! It does have a lot of graphs, but is what you expect from an economics book.
Arthur O’Sullivan’s Urban Economics is a comprehensive and sophisticated introduction to the field of urban economics, lacking only recognition of the contribution of behavioral economics. The reader will find him or herself well on the way to being able to tackle some of the most pressing considerations that present themselves. Hugh Schwartz, author of Urban Renewal, Municipal Revitalization: The Case of Curitiba, Brazil.

This book was overpriced but it is still very valuable. The examples and problem sets in this book are great for any introductory Urban Economics class.

Required book for class. Nothing special.

I enrolled in an Urban Economics course as part of my minor. I really don’t find the basics of economics too terribly thrilling, but I’ve really enjoyed the content. My professor follows the book closely and the text is surprisingly easy to read. :

I don’t use it much but it’s interesting stuff. The professors lectures are pretty thorough so I don’t use the book.

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