

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	BRE347
Subject Title	Urban and Construction Economics
Credit Value	3
Level	3
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Pre-requisite: BRE216 Co-requisite/Exclusion: Nil
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable students to understand economic theories and analytical techniques related to real property and urban land issues. 2. Enable students to understand the factors affecting construction cost
Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use relevant economics principles to develop the ability to analyse the real estate market and urban economy. b. Utilise skills to synthesise coherent arguments and policy implications to support decision-making process in urban development policies. c. Analyse the factors affecting construction cost at an industry and project level. d. Compile cost plan for a given project using cost records. e. Communicate principles, theories and cost data effectively. f. Identify contemporary issues related to urban and construction economics
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<p><u>Economic Theories & Concepts underlying Urban Land Issues</u></p> <p>Nature of land economics, land policies and land administration. Theories of urban growth and urban structure, and economics of urbanization. Theories of land rent and urban land use pattern. Analysis of real estate market. Techniques of economic analysis of urban land development and redevelopment. Economics of property rights and public sector intervention.</p> <p><u>Construction Economics</u></p> <p>Role of construction in the economy. Demand and supply for construction . Productivity. Types of client and the client's brief. Compilation and use of cost data. Cost indices. Price determination of construction project. Design economics. Cost planning. Introduction to cost modelling.</p>
Teaching/Learning Methodology	<p>The main theory and concepts are delivered through lectures (each at 1.5 hrs per week), with application and discussion being covered in seminars and tutorials (each at 1.5 hrs per week in small groups), for a total period of 14 weeks.</p> <p>The syllabus covers 2 main sections: (I) Economic theories and concepts underlying urban land issues; and (II) Construction economics.</p> <p>Section I provides an outline to students on the broad picture of urban land economics, with particular emphasis on economic of urbanisation, land use policies, land administration and public sector intervention in land and real estate markets.</p> <p>The fundamentals of knowledge on land use will lay a good foundation for future</p>

professionals dealing with land and buildings.

Section II on construction economics will take students through the macro and micro factors determining construction cost.

Apart from face-to-face lectures and discussion, students can download teaching materials, including some articles for reference, from an electronic teaching platform called “SMILE”.

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes

Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)					
		a	b	c	d	e	f
1.Seminar/Group Report 1	20%	√	√			√	√
2.Seminar/Group Report 2	20%			√	√	√	√
3.Examination	60%	√	√	√	√	√	
Total	100 %						

Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:

<i>Learning outcomes</i>	Oral Seminar Presentation	Written Seminar Report	Examination
1. to possess skills to identify, analyze and		√	√
2. to have an understanding of professional, social and ethical responsibilities			√
3. to communicate effectively	√	√	√
4. to contribute as team member and to lead effectively	√	√	
5. to identify contemporary issues			√
a. Use relevant economics principles to develop the ability to analyse the real estate market and urban economy.	√	√	√
b. Utilise skills to synthesise coherent arguments and policy implications to support decision-making process in urban development policies.	√	√	√

	c. Analyse the factors affecting construction cost at an industry and project level.			√
	d. Compile cost plan for a given project using cost records.	√	√	
<p><u>The assessment criteria adopted in tutorial/seminars</u> ("plus" grade for enhanced performance possible for each grade except F)</p> <p>1. Seminar (oral presentation) – individual assessment (20%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral presentation skills: A for excellent, B for good, C for clear, D for reading from script, F for mumbling • Familiarity with the topic: A for excellent, B for good, C for adequate, D for poor, F for no knowledge • Quality of visuals: A for excellent, B for good, C for adequate, D for barely sufficient, F for poor • Answer during discussion: A for excellent, B for good, C for adequate, D for barely sufficient, F for poor <p>2. Seminar (Group report) – overall (group) assessment (20%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written communication skills: A for excellent, B for good, C for clear, D for barely sufficient, F for poor • Data/information collection: A for excellent, B for good, C for adequate, D for barely sufficient, F for poor • Data interpretation & analysis: A for excellent, B for good, C for adequate, D for barely sufficient, F for poor • Identification of problem/issue: A for excellent, B for good, C for adequate, D for barely sufficient, F for poor • Conclusion: A for excellent, B for convincing, C for adequate, D for barely sufficient, F for poor 				
Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:			
	▪ Lectures			21 Hrs.
	▪ Seminars/Tutorials			21 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:			
	▪ Independent study			120 Hrs.
	Total student study effort			
Reading List and References	<p>Balchin, P.N. & Kieve, J.L., (1988) <i>Urban Land Economics</i>, London: MacMillan</p> <p>Barr, N., (1993) <i>The Economics of the Welfare State</i>, London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson</p> <p>Briscoe, G., (1988) <i>The Economics of the Construction Industry</i>, London: Mitchell Cheshire, P.C. Evans, A.W. (eds), (1991) <i>Urban and Regional Economics</i>, London: Edward Elgar</p> <p>Darlow, C., (1988) <i>Valuation and Development Appraisal</i>, London: Estate Gazette Ltd.</p> <p>Ferry, D. & Brandon, P.S., (1991) <i>Cost planning of Buildings</i>, 6th Edition, London: BSP Professional Books</p>			

Harvey, J. (1992) *Urban Land Economics: The Economics of Real Property*, London: MacMillan

Hui, C.M., Chan, P.C., Wong, K.W., Wong K.C. & Leung, Y.P. (2000), *The Supply of Land for Housing in Hong Kong*, Research Monograph, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Mills, E.S. & Hamilton, B.W. (1992), *Urban Economics*, N.Y.: Harper Collins

Myers D. (1994), *Economics and Property*, London: Estate Gazette

O'ullivan, A., (1993) *Urban Economics*, London: Irwin

Raftery, J., (1991) *Principles of Building Economics*, London: BSP Professional Books

Ashworth A., (2010) *Cost Studies of Buildings*, Harlow, England: Pearson

Supplementary:

Broadway, R., (1984) *Public Sector Economics*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell

DiPasquale, D. & Wheaton, W.C. (1996) *Urban Economics and Real Estate Markets*, London: Prentice Hall

McMahon, J., (1989) *Property Development*, London: McGraw-Hill

Newell, M., (1977) *An Introduction to Economics of Urban Landuse*, London: Estate Gazette

Tolley, G.S. & Thomas V. (ed), (1987) *The Economics of Urbanisation and Urban Policies in Developing Countries*, Washington: The World Bank

Tse R., (1992) *Hong Kong Housing Market*, H.K.: Commercial Press

Zerbe, R.O. & Divley, D.D. (1994) *Benefit-cost Analysis: In Theory and Practice*, NY: Harper Collins

Smith, J. (1998) *Building Cost Planning for the Design Team*, Deakin University Press

Seeley, I. (1996) *Building Economics*, MacMillan

Pilcher, R. (1994) *Project Cost Control in Construction*, Blackwell Scientific Publication

Hong Kong Statistics (current issues), Hong Kong SAR Government