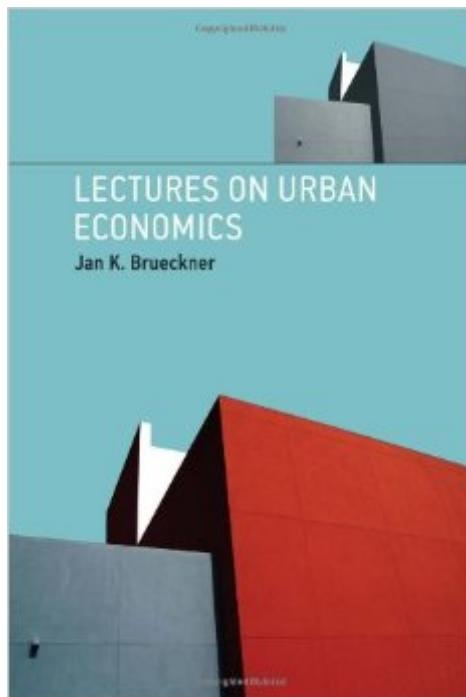


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# Lectures On Urban Economics (MIT Press)



## Synopsis

Lectures on Urban Economics offers a rigorous but nontechnical treatment of major topics in urban economics. To make the book accessible to a broad range of readers, the analysis is diagrammatic rather than mathematical. Although nontechnical, the book relies on rigorous economic reasoning. In contrast to the cursory theoretical development often found in other textbooks, Lectures on Urban Economics offers thorough and exhaustive treatments of models relevant to each topic, with the goal of revealing the logic of economic reasoning while also teaching urban economics. Topics covered include reasons for the existence of cities, urban spatial structure, urban sprawl and land-use controls, freeway congestion, housing demand and tenure choice, housing policies, local public goods and services, pollution, crime, and quality of life. Footnotes throughout the book point to relevant exercises, which appear at the back of the book. These 22 extended exercises (containing 125 individual parts) develop numerical examples based on the models analyzed in the chapters. Lectures on Urban Economics is suitable for undergraduate use, as background reading for graduate students, or as a professional reference for economists and scholars interested in the urban economics perspective.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jan Brueckner's LECTURES ON URBAN ECONOMICS is an excellent introduction to the subject for anyone with a background in intermediate microeconomics. As Vernon Henderson (back cover

endorsement) points out, Brueckner "... has a great talent for taking complex ideas and models and putting them in readily accessible frameworks that capture the key points." The book contains chapters on urban spatial structure (4), transportation, housing (2), local public goods, pollution, crime, and urban quality of life measurement. The author admits that "the book contains very little purely descriptive or factual material of the kind usually found in textbooks." That said, it seems very up-to-date and even provides a basic analysis of the housing market implosion of recent years. To sum up, this is a very thoughtfully organized and clearly written introduction to the key elements of urban economic theory.

This book offers a good introduction to urban economics. There is practically no math, so the only prerequisite for reading the text will be knowledge of intermediate microeconomics, exactly as other readers have suggested.

Unlike other reviewers I find the book lacking on policy alternatives. The treatment is largely neoclassical and substantially in the American context.

Provides good intuition with a minimal use of mathematics.

I have found this book an excellent introduction to Urban Economics. It gives the basic concepts of this area of economics and it lets you understand better some more advanced papers that appear in the literature.

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