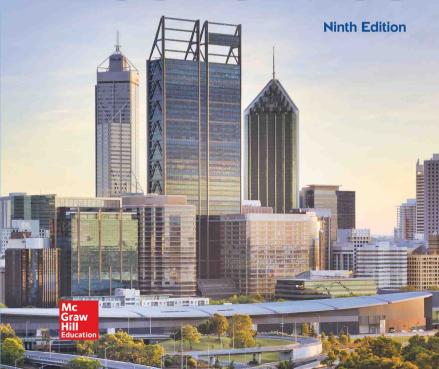
Arthur O'Sullivan

URBAN Economics



Urban Economics

NINTH EDITION

Arthur O'Sullivan

Department of Economics Lewis & Clark College





URBAN ECONOMICS, NINTH EDITION

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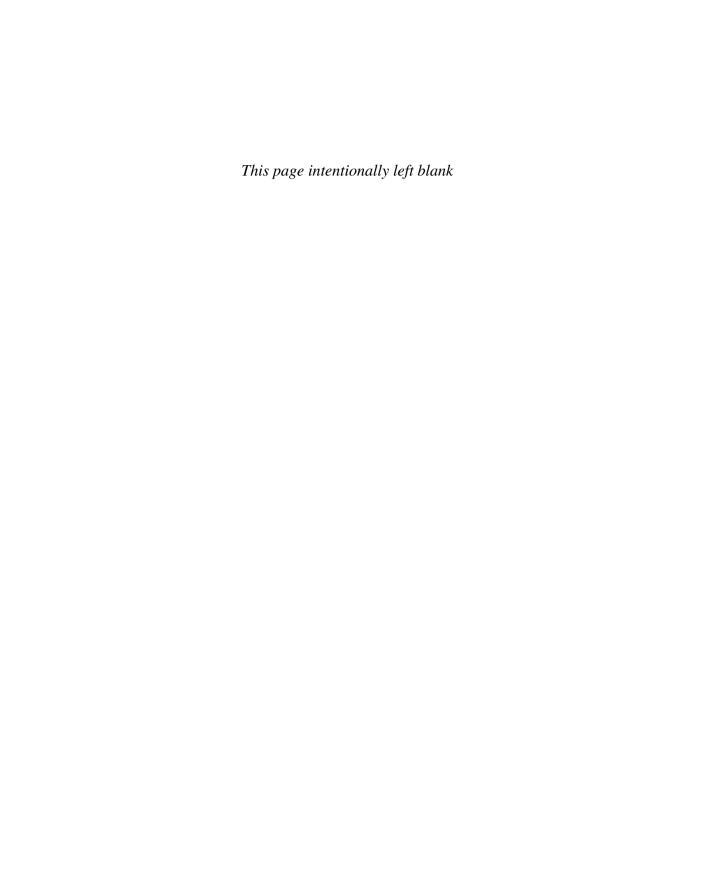
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To Professor Ed Whitelaw, the most talented teacher I've ever known. It has been almost 30 years since I've been in Ed's class, but whenever I start thinking about how to teach some new material, my first thought is "How would Ed present this material?"

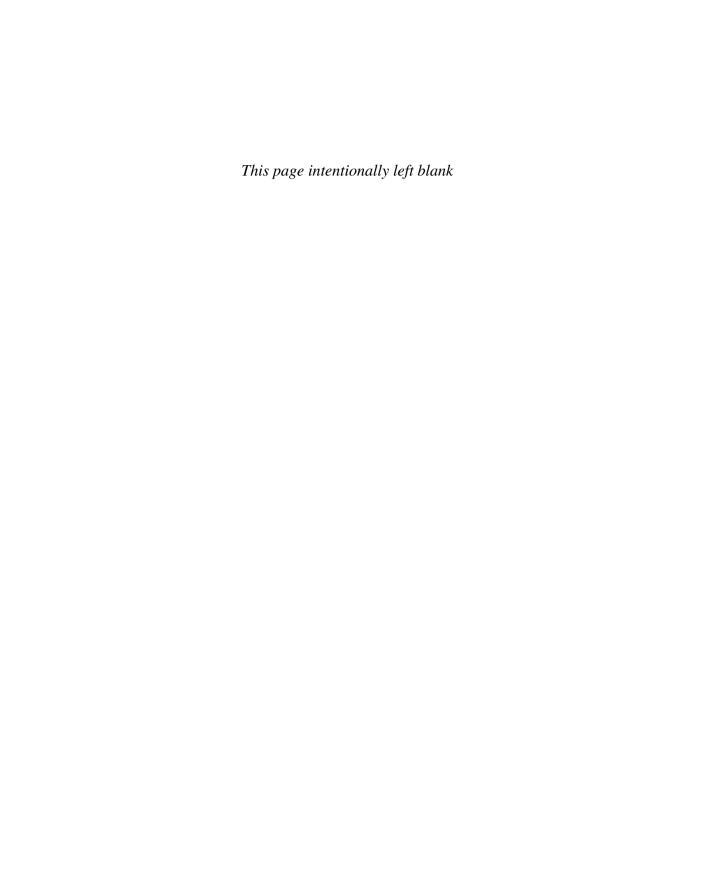


About the Author



ARTHUR O'SULLIVAN is a professor of Economics at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. After receiving his B.S. degree in economics from the University of Oregon, he spent two years in the Peace Corps, working with city planners in the Philippines. He received his Ph.D. degree in economics from Princeton University in 1981 and taught at the University of California, Davis, and Oregon State University, winning teaching awards at both schools. He is the Robert B. Pamplin Junior Professor of Economics at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, where he teaches microeconomics and urban economics. He is the coauthor of the introductory textbook, *Economics: Principles and Tools*, currently in its eighth edition.

Professor O'Sullivan's research explores economic issues concerning urban land use, environmental protection, and public policy. His articles appear in many economics journals, including *Journal of Urban Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, National Tax Journal, Journal of Public Economics*, and *Journal of Law and Economics*.



Preface

This book is designed for a course in urban economics, the discipline that lies at the intersection of geography and economics. Economics is the study of choice, exploring the decisions of optimizing households, firms, governments, and other organizations. Urban economics places these choices in a geographical context.

- A household chooses the utility-maximizing residential location.
- A firm chooses the profit-maximizing production site.

As we'll see throughout the book, the incorporation of locational concerns into models of optimization behavior provides important insights into the nature of cities and the causes of urban problems such as poverty, congestion, segregation, and crime. The geographical perspective also helps us evaluate the merits of alternative policies to address these urban problems.

The book is organized into five parts. Part I introduces the field of urban economics and reviews six key concepts of microeconomics that are used repeatedly throughout the book. Part II explores a variety of market forces that cause firms and people to cluster in cities of various size and scope. Part III looks at the spatial organization of cities, exploring the economic and public-policy forces that determine the spatial distribution of activity within cities. Part IV explores the two components of the urban transportation system—cars and roads, and public transit. Part V looks at local government, exploring the rationale for local government in a federal system of government, and taking a closer look at two particular public goods—education and public safety.

The text is designed for use in undergraduate courses in urban economics and urban affairs. It could also be used for graduate courses in urban planning, public policy, and public administration. All of the economic concepts used in the book are covered in the typical intermediate microeconomics course. For readers whose exposure to microeconomics is limited to an introductory course—or readers could benefit from a review of microeconomics concepts—Chapter 24 ("Models of Microeconomics") provides a review of the key concepts developed in an intermediate course.

CHANGES FOR THE 9TH EDITION

The text has been thoroughly revised to provide a clear and concise presentation of the field of urban economics. While the overall sequence of topics in the book has not changed, the changes in individual chapters are substantial and too numerous to list. The best way to get a sense of the changes is to consult the Table of Contents.

WEB SITE

The web site for the book www.mhhe.com/osullivan9e has color versions of the maps in the book, PowerPoint presentations, and lecture notes.

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I am indebted to many people who read the book and suggested ways to improve the coverage and the exposition. In particular I would like to thank those instructors who participated in surveys and reviews that were indispensable in the development of the Ninth Edition of *Urban Economics*. The appearance of their names does not necessarily constitute their endorsement of the text or its methodology.

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