Course objectives and requirements:

This course is intended to train you to do research at the frontier of urban economics. The course work is organized around two complementary objectives. The first is familiarizing you with the field’s main ideas and topics, e.g., through lectures, readings and problem sets. The second is training you to look for mistakes or omissions in the literature, i.e., research opportunities. You will practice this second skill by critiquing other peoples’ work, by sketching out a handful of ideas, and by starting a research paper. You should plan to come to class and to hand something in about once every week. A rough accounting of time required for the course is as follows:

- Lectures: 3 hours per week for 13 weeks (39 total hours).
- Reading, class preparation, and problem sets: 10 hours per week for 13 weeks (130 hours total).
- Studying and review for final and preparation of own research projects 25 hours.
- Total 194 hours.

Lectures:

Lectures are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-10:20am in Robinson Hall #301. I do not anticipate missing any of the scheduled lectures.

Course website:

The course website is at:

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew_Turner/ec2410/eco2410_main.htm

I will make course materials available, readings and problems sets in particular, through this site.

Office hours:

I will have office hours regularly during the term. For a schedule and location, please check this link:

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Economics/Faculty/Matthew_Turner/office_hours.htm

I will also, usually, be available to talk after class.

I will try to maintain a regular schedule of office hours, but will occasionally need to deviate from this schedule. In this case, I will make a note at the link above. I encourage you to check before you come to my office.
Grading:
In addition to lectures and readings, there are the following other course requirements with their grade-weights:

1. Three research proposals. These are 1-2 page sketches of possible research projects (20%).
2. Three referee reports. These are 1-2 page critiques of papers that I will suggest, though I am open to having you pick your own papers (20%).
3. One more thorough development of a research idea, a term paper, of 5-10 pages (20%).
4. 3-4 problem sets (25%).
5. Final exam, date TBD (10%).
6. Class participation (10%).

Academic misconduct:
Copying or plagiarizing or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Students caught engaging in these activities will be subject to academic discipline.

Topics
A detailed listing of topics and the course schedule is available on the course website.