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Days	Time	Room
Mon	06:30 PM- 09:20 PM	GRAM 209

Spring 2009

PSC620: Urban Development Policy

Course Description

Some city-regions grow, others stagnate or decline. Many sprawl and fragment, where different classes and race/ethnic groups often live apart with each other. In this course, we will investigate how such urban changes and developments take place, and how they impact the citizens' wellbeing, by applying economic theories and concepts, along with social and political analyses. After the investigations, we will discuss how we can guide the future of our urban communities and identify the role of public policy and government in those efforts.

The topics we will be covering throughout the course include:

- Urban growth and economic changes
- Housing, labor force and development
- Urban infrastructure and transportation
- Economic development and public policy
- Social and human capital and development
- Land use and urban sustainability

Course Goals:

The goals of this course include:

- To understand basic theories and concepts of urban economics
- To examine causal mechanisms behind key urban issues and problems
- To connect between economic forces, government actions and urban development patterns
- To develop urban analysis and make potential policy solutions

Course Expectations:

Student participation is the core part of this course. Your active participation is highly expected. Thus, keeping up with reading materials is essential.

Specifically, you are expected to:

- Attend class regularly
- Read the assigned course materials by the date we will be discussing in class
- Do assignments and submit papers by due dates
- Take exams as scheduled
- Be punctual and respectful to others (no disruptive behaviors, no cell phone and other telecommunication device uses), and stay for the entire class

Course Requirements:

- Two exams: 45% (Mid-term 20%; Final 25%)
- Research paper and presentations: 30%
- Class participation and assignments: 25% of final grades

Paper:

You will be producing a term research paper (10-15 double space), where you will conduct a policy analysis and apply conceptual knowledge that you acquire during this course. You will identify an urban issue, examine real life conditions and make policy recommendations. Detailed instructions will be given to you on later dates.

Special Note:

- No late papers will be accepted.
- Cite your papers properly (e.g. the APA, MLA), including for Internet sources.
- Avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism includes unidentified quotes, paraphrases, or summaries. Whether intentional or not, plagiarism is a form of cheating. Plagiarism will result in an “F” on the assignment and in the course.
- If you have special needs because of a learning disability, please feel free to discuss this with me.
- Blackboard is used as the main source of telecommunication. I will use your email addresses recorded there. Please be aware.
- No extra-credit work is offered.

Grading Policy:

Final grades are determined according to the following schedule:

A	93-100	B+	87–89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F =	Below 60

Required Book: The following book should be available at the school bookstore

“The Urban Experience: Economics, Society, and Public Policy,” Barry Bluestone, Mary Huff Stevenson, and Russell Williams, Oxford University Press

Other Reading Materials:

- E-reserves available on Blackboard
- Journal articles through the library e-journals and databases
- Other materials may be added to the list as considered appropriate

Schedule:

Wk	Topic and Reading
1	1/26 Introduction Ch.1 The dynamics of metropolitan development
2	2/02 Ch. 2 Measuring and comparing metropolitan America Ch. 3 The dynamics of city growth
3	2/09 Ch. 4 the dynamics of metropolitan expansion
4	2/16 Ch.5 The twenty-first century urban growth
5	2/23 Ch.6 Urban prosperity and the role of trade
6	3/02 Exam 1
	3/09 Spring Break
7	3/16 Ch.7 & 8 Labor market, public education and metro prosperity 'Competition for High-Tech Jobs in Second-Tier Regions' Heike Mayer (e-reserve)
8	3/23 Ch. 9 The urban public sector 'Crossing State Borders: Utility-Led Interstate Economic Development Cooperation in New England,' Kimberly Aaron and Douglas J. Watson (e-reserve)
9	3/30 Ch.10 Urban physical infrastructure 'Transit-Oriented Development: Floun'say R. Caver and Grace Gallucci (e-reserve)
10	4/06 Ch.11& 12 Urban social infrastructure and housing market 'The "Shrinking" Strategy of Youngstown, Ohio,' Wendy L. Hassett (e-reserve)
11	4/13 Ch.13 Land use and growth management 'Keeping up with the Joneses,' Robert Sharp and John Lombard (e-reserve)
12	4/20 Ch. 14 Urban economic development 'Networking in Economic Development' Kimberly Aaron and Douglas J. Watson (e-reserve)
13	4/27 Ch. 15 Urban wellbeing and urban communities
14	5/04 Paper presentation, paper due
15	5/11 Final

Changes may have to be made to the above schedule to accommodate unexpected events