PMAP 3111: Urban Political Economy  
Spring 2015, Tuesday 7:15-9:45

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Office hours  
Monday 1-3, AYSPS Policy Hub or by appointment

This course is designed to be a broad overview on the field of research concerning the factors that shape cities. The beginning of the course will add to the language we use to describe production and trade and the problems connected with it. First we will gain a foothold from the field of economics on how to define and recognize problems, then by looking at the different ways that cities governance has been described. Once we have those tools of description in place, each week we will look at an aspect of urban political economy to understand its causes and effect on cities.

Class will be heavily dependent on discussion, so the need to do the reading cannot be stressed enough. As such, a large component of your grade will be decided by weekly reading assignments. Classes may also feature short lectures by me or videos meant to facilitate learning, but class will not be a spectator sport.

When emailing me, please place the course number PMAP 3111 in the subject line along with what the email is about. For example “PMAP 3111 request for meeting” or “PMAP 3111 question on reading” will help ensure that I don’t miss your email. I will try to respond to all emails within 24 hours, but anything later than 9pm is unlikely to be responded to until the following morning. Email me at the address listed above, not through the Brightspace system.

Exams

There will be 3 exams throughout the course, 2 midterms counting for 20% each and a final exam for 30%. All exams will be a series of essay questions designed to test your understanding of the readings and the discussions held in class.

Reading Memos

Reading responses (or memos) are due each week that there is assigned reading. These memos should provide a paragraph reviewing each assigned reading, discussing its key points and why the reading is important. In addition, you should include a question for each reading about something you did not understand, something you’d want to hear more about, etc. These memos are assigned to ensure that reading is completed before class and to further facilitate your understanding of the material through class discussion. They are due each week at midnight on Monday night so that I have time to review them prior to class. They will be graded based on the
quality of writing and the clarity with which you review the material. The lowest grade on a weekly memo will be dropped. They are worth 25% of your final grade. Since there are 11 weeks with reading (with one grade dropped), each can be considered to be worth 2.5% of your grade.

**Participation and Attendance**

Attendance is required. Two absences are allowed, beyond which your grade will drop one-level (i.e., from a B+ to a B). The 2 absences allowed account for illness, family commitments, and work issues that may prevent you from making it to class. In addition, your performance when in class accounts for the remaining 5% is based on in class participation.

**Texts**

There are no assigned textbooks to purchase for the class. Everything will be posted on Brightspace (formerly D2L). Also, I recommend reading citylab.com and planetizen.com for relevant, timely information on urban current events. Tying the weekly readings to current events in the memos is recommended.

**Grade Calculation**

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**Please be aware:**
All instructors must, on a date after the mid-point of the course (to be set by the Provost),
1. Give a WF to all those students who are on their rolls, but no longer taking the class and
2. Report the last day the student attended or turned in an assignment.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or mental disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined above or which will require extra time on examination, please notify me in the first two weeks of the course so that we can make
appropriate arrangements.

Any cases of plagiarism will be handled according to university guidelines as outlined in the student handbook.

Please note the following definition of plagiarism, from the student handbook: Plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting another person’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism includes any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgment, including the submitting of another student’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism frequently involves a failure to acknowledge in the text, notes, or footnotes the quotation of the paragraphs, sentences, or even a few phrases written or spoken by someone else. The submission of research or completed papers or projects by someone else is plagiarism, as is the unacknowledged use of research sources gathered by someone else when that use is specifically forbidden by the faculty member. Failure to indicate the extent and nature of one’s reliance on other sources is also a form of plagiarism. Failure to indicate the extent and nature of one's reliance on other sources is also a form of plagiarism. Any work, in whole or part, taken from the internet without properly referencing the corresponding URL may be considered plagiarism. An author's name and the title of the original work, if available, should also be included as part of the reference. Finally, there may be forms of plagiarism that are unique to an individual discipline or course, examples of which should be provided in advance by the faculty member. The student is responsible for understanding the legitimate use of sources, the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic, scholarly or creative indebtedness, and the consequences of violating this responsibility.
**Course Schedule**

**January 13 Introduction.** No readings

**January 20 Urban.** Key question: What is the status of cities now and how has that changed over the century?

Hall, *Cities of Tomorrow*, Chapter 2: The City of Dreadful Night  

**January 27 Problems in Economics.** Key question: Where do you see problems as defined by economists in cities?


**February 3 Urban Politics: Pluralism/ The Urban Growth Machine:** How does the urban growth machine differ from pluralism and how does it help us understand city governance?

Judge, *Theories of Urban Politics*, Chapter: Pluralism  
Molotch (1973) The City as a Growth Machine: Toward a Political Economy of Place  
Peterson, *City Limits*, Chapter: The Interests of the Limited City

**February 10 Urban Politics: Regime Theory.** Key question: What does regime theory add to pluralism and urban growth machine? What does regime theory lack?

Stone (1993) Urban Regimes and the Capacity to Govern  
Stone, *Regime Politics*, Chapter 9: Atlanta’s Urban Regime  
Imbroscio (2004) Overcoming the Neglect of Economics in Urban Regime Theory

**February 17.** No readings, EXAM #1

**February 24: Agglomeration.** Key question: Why do we gather in cities?

Botero, On the Causes of the Greatness and Magnificence of Cities, Book 1  
McDonald and McMillen, *Urban Economics and Real Estate*, Chapter 3: Location Decisions  

**March 3 (Midpoint, Last Day to Withdraw): Segregation.** Key question: Why does residential segregation occur, and what are its costs?
Tiebout (1956) Pure Theory of Local Expenditure
Dreier, Mollenkopf, and Swanstrom, Place Matters, Chapter 3: The Costs of Economic Segregation and Sprawl

March 10: Suburbanization. If cities are so great, why did people leave?
Mieszkowski and Mills (1993) the Causes of Metropolitan Suburbanization
Jackson, Crabgrass Frontier, Chapter: Federal Subsidy and the Suburban Dream
Garreau, Edge City, Chapter: Atlanta

March 17: Spring Break. No readings

March 24: Gentrification. Key question: is gentrification good or bad? For whom?
Osman, Inventing Brownstone Brooklyn, Chapter: Introduction
Chernoff (1980) Social Displacement in a Renovating Neighborhood’s Commercial District

March 31: No readings, EXAM #2

April 7: Redevelopment. What were the costs of redevelopment? How do Paris and Atlanta compare?
Vale, Purging the Poorest, Redeveloping Techwood and Clark Howell
Kirkland, Paris Reborn, A Landscare of Ruins

April 14: Subsidies. Do subsidies for industry create growth?
French and Disher (1997) Atlanta and the Olympics
CBPP (2010) State Film Subsidies
Cantor and Rosentraub (2012) A ballpark and neighborhood change

April 21: Consumer City. Where are cities going? What will create future growth?
Glaeser, Kolko and Saiz (2001) Consumer City
Florida (2003) Cities and the Creative Class

Final scheduled May 5th at 7:00 pm