PPA 299 (251): INDEPENDENT STUDY OF URBAN PROBLEMS, ECONOMICS, AND PUBLIC POLICY

PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

Fall 2017

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Office Phone: (916) 278-6304.
Office Hours: Monday, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. and by appointment.
Course Held: Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Starbuck’s on Alhambra Blvd. and Capital Avenue in Sacramento

Required Texts:


Scheduled Meetings:

We will meet once every other week on Tuesday, for about 120 minutes, at the Starbuck’s on Alhambra Blvd. and Capital Avenue in Sacramento, to discuss the assigned
readings, your answers to the assigned HW for that week, and to turn in a paper copy of
the written answers to your HW.

Overview:

I will conduct this class as an independent study that requires you to do much of the
learning through reading outside of our meetings. The intent of our bi-weekly meeting is
to summarize the week’s reading main points, answer any clarifying questions you have,
and to cover HW assigned.

My expectation is your attendance at every meeting. This is encouraged/checked by HW
being due at each meeting that you may only turn in at the meeting. I will email the HW
assignment for the following week to you by the Friday morning before they are due.
Each of you will also be responsible for leading the discussion amongst all of us on
specific portions of the assigned readings. I designate these assignments by (N) for
Nathan, (S) for Shuku, E (Erin) and (I) for Imaez. Of course, this still means that all of
you still do all the assigned readings for the night we meet.

Grading Procedure:

I will assign a number grade to all weekly answers to discussion questions and your
literature review. I base your final grade on these number grades.

The average grade assigned to the answers you provide to discussion questions every
other week accounts for 40 percent of your final grade. While your literature review
grade is another 40 percent. My assessment of your participation at our weekly meetings
makes up the remaining 20 percent. I will post all grades at SacCT.

Since this is an independent study, I can only assign a pass or fail grade. You will know
the actual grade received, and I will grant the pass if your average grade for the course (as
calculated above) is a “B” (3.0) or better.

**University policy for dropping this course followed. You must complete the
literature review to receive a passing grade in this course.**

Where relevant, I base grades on the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Correct</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Number Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-97</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>96-93</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>92-89</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-85</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-81</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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Literature Review:

A primary product you will produce from this class is a literature review of policy solutions offered for an urban policy topic of your choosing. We will discuss this further on the first night that we meet. The rubric at the end of this syllabus offers some broad guidance on what I am looking for. The Galvin book (used in PPA 207) is a superb reference on how to conduct such a literature review.

Schedule:

The following schedule lists the major topics covered and the assigned reading that accompanies them. I reserve the right to make minor changes and additions to the following schedule. Underlined material is hyperlinked.

**Meeting 1 (September 5)**

- (I) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter One, *Wonder and Paradox of Urban Life*

- (S) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Two, *How Metro Area’s Rank*

- (N) Sacramento 2000 Urbanized Area Map

- (N) Sacramento 2010 Urbanized Area Map

- (N) State of California Metropolitan Area Map


- (E) Glaeser, Chapter 1, *What Do They Make in Bangalore?*

- (I) Glaeser, Chapter 2, Why Do Cities Decline?

- Discuss Literature Review Assignment

**Meeting 2 (September 19)**
- (S) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Five, *U.S. Metro Areas in the 21st Century*

- (N) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Six, *Urban Prosperity and the Role of Trade*

- (E) Glaeser, Chapter 3, *What’s Good About Slums?*

- (I) Glaeser, Chapter 4, *How Were the Tenements Tamed?*

- (S) EconTalk Podcast, *Romer on Urban Growth*,
  http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2015/03/paul_romer_on_u.html

**Meeting 3 (October 3)**

- (N) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Seven, *Urban Labor Markets and Metro Prosperity*

- (E) Glaeser, Chapter 5, *Is London a Luxury Resort?*

- (I) Glaeser, Chapter 6, *What’s So Great About Skyscrapers?*

- (S) EconTalk Podcast, *Jason Barr on Building the Skyline and the Economics of Skyscrapers*,
  http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2017/03/jason_barr_on_b.html

**Meeting 4 (October 17)**

- (N) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Nine, *Urban Public Sector*

- (E) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Thirteen, *Land Use Controls, Sprawl, and Smart Growth*

- (I) Glaeser, Chapter 7, *Why Has Sprawl Spread?*

- (S) *Growing Cooler*

- (S) Glaeser, Chapter 8, *Is There Anything Greener than Blacktop?*

- (N) *Sacramento County USB Map*

- (E) *Sacramento Region Blueprint*

- (E) *Sacramento Blueprint Project Video*
Meeting 5 (October 31)

- (I) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Twelve, *Urban Housing Markets*

- (S) EconTalk Podcast, *Avent on Cities, Urban Regulations, and Growth*  

- (N) Planet Money Podcast, *Unbuilding a City*,  

- (E) *The Benefits of Growth*

Meeting 6 (November 14)

- (I) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Ten, *Urban Physical Infrastructure*

- (S) Freakonomics Podcast, *Parking is Hell*  
  http://freakonomics.com/2013/03/13/parking-is-hell-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast

- (S) Freakonomics Podcast, *Mass Transit Hysteria*  

- (N) Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Fourteen, *Urban Economic Development Strategies*

- (E) Glaeser, Chapter 9, *How Do Cities Succeed?*

- (I) Glaeser, *Conclusion*

Meeting 7 (November 28)

- (S) Florida, *Preface*

- (N) Florida, Chapter 1, *The Urban Contradiction*

- (E) Florida, Chapter 2, *Winner Take all Urbanism*

- (I) Florida, Chapter 3, *City of Elites*

- (S) Florida, Chapter 4, *Gentrification and its Discontents*

- (N) Florida, Chapter 5, *Inequality of Cities*

- (E) Florida, Chapter 6, *The Bigger Sort*
- (I) Florida, Chapter 7, *Patchwork Metropolis*

- (S) Florida, Chapter 8, *Suburban Crisis*

- (N) Florida, Chapter 9, *The Crisis of Global Urbanization*

- (E) Florida, Chapter 10, *Urbanism for All*

**Meeting 8 (December 12)**

*Turn in your written literature review and offer a bulleted summary/discussion of your major findings/conclusions to the whole group*
Your assignment is to write a (minimum) ten-page, typed literature review that is double-spaced, 11 font and one-inch margins all around. It is due in electronic form to me by no later than 6 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 12**. Each day late will result in a one-grade deduction. Please submit as a WORD attachment to a SacCT e-mail to me. I describe below the requirements for the paper. I also list the points earned by satisfying each of the requirements. I will use this grading rubric for the assignment. All references below to Galvin’s *Writing Literature Reviews* refer to the fourth edition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Element</th>
<th>Points Available</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Use a <strong>minimum of 10 articles</strong> drawn from academic and preferably refereed journals. You may use more articles that are not regression based.</td>
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<td>(2) Include a <strong>reference list</strong> at the end of the literature review (that does not count toward your page limit of six) that is in <strong>APA style</strong>. References made throughout the review should also follow APA style.</td>
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<td>(3) Read all of your articles in the manner described in Chapter 4 in Galvin for “General Guidelines for Analyzing Literature” and organize your literature review around <strong>three different themes designated as separate sections in your review</strong>.</td>
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<td>(4) Review Chapter 5 in Galvin on “Analyzing Quantitative Research Literature.” Note particularly <strong>Guidelines 4 (cause and effect issues covered), 9 (differences in variable measurement), 10 (sampling issues), 12 (magnitude and statistical significance of regression coefficients), and 13 (flaws in studies observed) and incorporate these suggestions into your analysis and write up</strong>.</td>
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<td>(5) Review Chapter 7 in Galvin “Building Tables to Summarize Literature.” You are to include a well-crafted table of the type described here in your review. If you put it in an appendix, it need not count against your six-page limit.</td>
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<td>(6) As discussed in Chapter 8 of Galvin “Synthesizing Literature Prior to Writing a Review” your literature review’s “voice” is suitable for academic writing and differences among studies are noted (Guideline 5), obvious gaps discussed (Guideline 1), relevant theories discussed and how studies advance them (Guidelines 7 and 8), summaries are offered after each section and at end (Guideline 9), conclusions/implications, and suggestions for future research [your own PPA 207 paper] are included (Guidelines 10 and 11).</td>
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<td>(7) You have a coherent essay according to Chapter 10 in Galvin. This means an <strong>overview at start (Guidelines 1 and 2), annotations avoided (Guideline 4), subheadings used (Guideline 5), conclusion at end (Guideline 8), and argument flows well (Guideline 9)</strong>.</td>
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<td>(8) Style and mechanics follow Galvin’s suggestions in Chapter 11. In particular <strong>Guideline 3 (no overuse of direct quotations), Guideline 4 (correct APA use of citations), Guideline 6 (spell out acronyms), Guideline 9 (avoid slang), Guideline 11 (check your draft using Microsoft Grammar Editor, avoid passive voice), Guideline 12 (concise and descriptive title), and Guideline 14 (absolutely no plagiarism)</strong>.</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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