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

PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

Spring 2016

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Office Hours: Thursday, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Course Held: Tuesdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Location to be determined

Required Texts:


Scheduled Meetings:

We will meet once a week on Tuesday for about 90 minutes 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 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 can only be turned in at the meeting. I will email the HW assignment for the following week to you by the Friday morning before they are due. I will take these from primarily the back of chapter questions in *The Urban Experience* text.

Grading Procedure:

I will assign a number grade to all weekly answers to discussion questions. Your final grade calculated based on these number grades. Anything above a B- in the course is a passing grade.

The average grade assigned to the answers you provide to discussion questions every other week will account 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>
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<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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<tr>
<td>80-77</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>76-73</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>72-69</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>68-65</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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Literature Review:

A primary product you will produce from this class is a literature review on an urban policy topic of your choosing. The writing of this literature review is a great opportunity to explore the literature related to the topic that you wish to write your master’s thesis on. We will discuss further details on this at our first meeting. The rubric at the end of this syllabus offers some broad guidance on what I am looking for. The Galvin book 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 and considered supplemental material.

**Meeting 1 (January 26)**

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

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


- Discuss Literature Review Assignment

**Meeting 2 (February 2)**

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

- Glaeser, Chapter 2, *Why Do Cities Decline?*

- *Sacramento 2000 Urbanized Area Map*

- *Sacramento 2010 Urbanized Area Map*

- *State of California Metropolitan Area Map*

**Meeting 3 (February 9)**
- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Three, *Urban America from 17th to early 20th Century*

- Glaeser, Chapter 3, What’s Good About Slums?

**Meeting 4 (February 16)**

- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Four, *Cities and Suburbs in the late 20th Century*

- Glaeser, Chapter 4, How Were the Tenements Tamed?

- Finalize Literature Review Topic

**Meeting 5 (February 23)**

- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Five, *U.S. Metro Areas in the 21st Century*

- Glaeser, Chapter 5, Is London a Luxury Resort?

- Freakonomics Podcast *Could the Next Brooklyn be ...Las Vegas?*  

**Meeting 6 (March 1)**

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

- Glaeser, Chapter 6, What’s So Great About Skyscrapers?

**Meeting 7 (March 8)**

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

- Glaeser, Chapter 7, Why Has Sprawl Spread?

- The Benefits of Growth

**Meeting 8 (March 15)**

- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Eight, *Urban Public Education and Metro Prosperity*

- Glaeser, Chapter 8, Is There Anything Greener than Blacktop?
- *Growing Cooler*

**Meeting 9 (March 29)**

- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Nine, *Urban Public Sector*
- Glaeser, Chapter 9, *How Do Cities Succeed?*
- *Urban Devolution and Metropolitan Local Governance in California’s Next Half Century of Growth*

**Meeting 10 (April 5)**

- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Ten, *Urban Physical Infrastructure*
- Glaeser, Conclusion
- Freakonomics Podcast, *Parking is Hell*  
  [http://freakonomics.com/2013/03/13/parking-is-hell-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast](http://freakonomics.com/2013/03/13/parking-is-hell-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast)
- Freakonomics Podcast, *Mass Transit Hysteria*  

**Meeting 11 (April 12)**

- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Eleven, *Urban Social Infrastructure*

**Meeting 12 (April 19)**

- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Twelve, *Urban Housing Markets*
- EconTalk Podcast, *Avent on Cities, Urban Regulations, and Growth*  

**Meeting 13 (April 26)**

- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Twelve, *Land Use Controls, Sprawl, and Smart Growth*
- *Sacramento County USB Map*
- *Sacramento Blueprint Project Video*
- *Sacramento Region Blueprint*

**Meeting 14 (May 3)**
- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Twelve, *Urban Economic Development Strategies*

**Meeting 15 (May 10)**

- Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Twelve, *Urban Well Being*
Literature Review Assignment

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, May 17. 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 <strong>include a well-crafted table of the type described here</strong> 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 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).</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>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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