

PPA 251: URBAN PROBLEMS, ECONOMICS, AND PUBLIC POLICY

**PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO**

Spring 2019

Professor: Robert Wassmer, Ph.D.

Faculty Web-Page: <http://www.csus.edu/faculty/w/rwassme/index.html>

Twitter: @rwassme

Office: 226 Sac State Downtown Center Building (3rd and S Streets)

Class Location: Friday, 6 - 8:50 p.m., 111 Sac State Downtown Center Building

Office Phone: (916) 278-6304 (campus) or (916) 278-4556 (downtown)

Downtown Office Hours: Thursday and Friday, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.; and by appointment if necessary

Prerequisite: Grade of B- or higher in PPA 220A

Required Texts:

(1) *The Urban Experience: Economics, Society, and Public Policy*, 2008, B. Bluestone, M. Stevenson, and R. Williams; Oxford Press. Available for purchase on Amazon (\$60 used January 2, 2019) at <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/asin/0195313089/robwassmershomep>, Sac State Bookstore, or your favorite internet provider.

(2) *Triumph of the City*, 2011, Edward Glaeser, Penguin Press. Available for purchase on Amazon (\$10 used January 2, 2019) at <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/asin/159420277X/robwassmershomep> or your favorite internet provider.

Scheduled Meetings:

We will meet once every week on Friday 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. Beginning in the fourth week, we will do our best to bring in outside speakers(s) at start of class – though Friday night may be a tough sell for some.

Overview:

I will conduct this class less like a traditional lecture course, and more like 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 engage in a dialogue on the urban policy theme for the night.

My expectation is your attendance at every meeting. I encourage/check this by HW that you may only turn in at the meeting. I will post the HW assignment on Canvas for the following week by the Friday evening (at the latest) before they are due. Each of you are also responsible for leading the discussion amongst us on specific portions of the assigned readings. I designate these assignments by your first names in the course notes I will also put out by the Friday evening before class.

Grading Procedure:

I will assign a number grade to all weekly answers to discussion questions and your literature review. You will also need to write a ten-page (max) paper that I envision as a chapter 2 (literature review) of a MPPA/MSULD thesis. By the fourth week of class I need to have talked to each of you regarding what this final assignment will entail. After that, you will then send me an email outline of it. How well you satisfy this outline and the rubric at the end of this syllabus, is the basis of the number grade I assign to this. For those with other than urban policy thesis plans, we could negotiate a different final paper option.

The average grade assigned to the answers you provide to HW questions every other week accounts for 40 percent of your final grade. **I allow you to miss two HW assignments/classes without punishment by only using the highest grades you received on 13 of the required 15 assignments. The first HW is due at our first meeting and listed after the assigned reading below for that night. I will post future HW assignments at Canvas by 5 pm on Friday the week before class.**

Your final paper grade counts for 30 percent. My assessment of your participation at our weekly meetings and Twitter makes up the remaining 30 percent. I will post all grades at Canvas.

Note that HW format for 251 is not a two-page essay, but instead a series of questions that usually requires a one-paragraph answer for each. All answers should be in typed 11 font, with one-inch margins, and include a cover sheet with your name, date of class, and a reproduction of each of the numbered questions. The person completing them can only turn in a HW assignment on the night they are due in paper form.

I follow the official university policy for dropping this course.

Where relevant, I base grades on the following table:

<u>Percent Correct</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Number Grade</u>
100-97	A+	4.3
96-93	A	4.0
92-89	A-	3.7
88-85	B+	3.3
84-81	B	3.0
80-77	B-	2.7
76-73	C+	2.3
72-69	C	2.0
68-65	C-	1.7
64-60	D	1.0
<60	F	0.0

Schedule:

The following schedule lists the major topics covered and the assigned reading that accompanies them. The readings are set through week three. After we finalize your interests, I will make additions to the readings. We will discuss this process on the first night we meet.

In red I have noted the first names of people who expressed an interest in a chapter(s). Alex and Liam had not responded at the time I created this first draft of syllabus. All of you should look over these selections and narrow yours down to just one chapter. Bring that chapter selection (and the subsection of the chapter you want to concentrate on) to meeting one where we will use it as part of planning for course.

Meeting 1 (January 25)

Discuss Structure of Class

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

Glaeser, Introduction, *Our Urban Species*

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

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

Freakonomics Podcast, *Why Cities Rock*,
<http://freakonomics.com/podcast/freakonomics-radio-why-cities-rock/>

EconTalk Podcast, *Glaeser on Cities*,
http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2013/04/glaeser_on_citi.html

HW: After viewing/reading all the material, come to class with typed, double-spaced, answers to each of the questions below (in the form described above under "Grading Procedure"):

(1) In three short paragraphs, each devoted to one question, answer questions 3, 4 and 5 at the back of chapter in Bluestone, Stevenson, and Williams; Chapter One, Wonder and Paradox of Urban Life.

(2) As you read the two first chapters in Glaeser's book on "Triumph of the City", look for one direct quote from each chapter that you found particularly compelling. Write them down directly (along with page number), then write a concise explanation as to why you chose it. Do this in a paragraph each.

(3) After listening to the two podcasts that feature Glaeser, write a paragraph describing why he believes that "Cities Rock".

Meeting 2 (February 1)

Has Urban Revival Caused a Crisis of Success?,
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/urban-revival-caused-crisis-success>

Two Takes on the Fate of Future Cities,
<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/04/two-takes-on-the-fate-of-future-cities/521907/>

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

Sacramento 2000 Urbanized Area Map,
https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/urbanarea/uaoutline/UA2000/ua77068/ua77068_00.pdf

Sacramento 2010 Urbanized Area Map,
https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/UAUC_RefMap/ua/ua77068_sacramento_ca/DC10UA77068.pdf

State of California Metropolitan Area Map,

https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/metroarea/stcbsa_pg/Feb2013/cbsa2013_C A.pdf

Glaeser, Chapter 3, What's Good About Slums?

Glaeser, Chapter 4, How Were the Tenements Tamed?

Meeting 3 (February 8)

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

Glaeser, Chapter 5, Is London a Luxury Resort?

Glaeser, Chapter 6, What's So Great About Skyscrapers?

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 (February 15)

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

Glaeser, Chapter 7, Why Has Sprawl Spread?

Glaeser, Chapter 8, Is There Anything Greener than Blacktop?

Wassmer and Boarnet, *Benefits of Growth*, https://uli.org/wp-content/uploads/ULI-Documents/BenefitsofGrowth.ashx_.pdf

Meeting 5 (February 22)

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

Glaeser, Chapter 9, *How Do Cities Succeed?*

Glaeser, *Conclusion*

EconTalk Podcast, *Avent on Cities, Urban Regulations, and Growth* http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2011/10/avent_on_cities.html

Meeting 6 (March 1)

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

Meeting 7 (March 8)

Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Eight, *Urban Public Education*
Horacio

Meeting 8 (March 15)

Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Nine, *Urban Public Sector* *To Lan*

Meeting 9 (March 29)

Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Ten, *Urban Physical Infrastructure*
Connie, Noah, Chris

Seven Principles for Building Better Cities,
https://www.ted.com/talks/peter_calthorpe_7_principles_for_building_better_cities?language=en

Meeting 10 (April 5)

Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Eleven, *Urban Social Infrastructure*
Anna, Glen, Justin, Noah

Meeting 11 (April 12)

Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Twelve, *Urban Housing Markets*
Madison

Meeting 12 (April 19)

Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Thirteen, *Land Use Controls, Sprawl, and Smart Growth* *Connie*

Growing Cooler,
<https://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/app/legacy/documents/growingcoolerCH1.pdf>

Sacramento County Urban Service Boundary Map,
http://www.per.saccounty.net/Documents/Maps/USB_UPA_Let_horiz_0112.pdf

Meeting 13 (April 26)

Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Fourteen, *Urban Economic Development Strategies* *Asael, Chris*

Meeting 14 (May 3)

Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams; Chapter Fifteen, *Urban Well Being, Civility, and Civic Engagement* *Leefong, Madison*

Meeting 15 (May 10)

Final Paper Due (May 17)

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Final Literature Review Assignment

Your final assignment is to write a ten-page (minimum), typed literature review in the form of double-spaced, 12 font and one-inch margins all around. It is due in electronic form no later than 6 p.m. on **Friday, May 17, 2019**. Each day late will result in a one-grade deduction. Please submit as a WORD attachment to rwassme@csus.edu. I describe below the requirements for the review that should be in essay form. I also list the points earned by satisfying each of the requirements.

<u>Required Element</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
(1) Used a minimum of 5 and max of 8 articles drawn from at least half academic/refereed journals (articles discussed/approved by Wassmer).	10	
(2) Included a reference list at the end of the literature review (that does not count toward your max page limit of 10) that is in APA style . References made throughout the review are in APA style.	10	
(3) Literature review organized around three different themes designated as separate sections in your review .	10	
(4) Included in introductory paragraph of literature review a one-sentence statement like : "The purpose of this essay is to explore previous literature that relates to my thesis question of: {insert your specific thesis question here}. Followed this with sentences that described the layout of full literature review. Concluding section of literature review summarizes important points from review that will be applied in thesis.	20	
(5) After reviewing Galvin's chapter on "Building Tables to Summarize Literature" in his book on <i>Writing Literature Reviews</i> (in PPA Library if you do not own), you included a well-crafted table of the type described there . (Does not count against 10-page limit if in appendix.)	20	
(6) After reviewing Galvin's chapter on "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 thesis] are included (Guidelines 10 and 11) .	10	
(7) You have a clear essay according to Galvin's chapter on "Guideline for Developing a Coherent Essay". 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) .	10	
(8) Literature review follow Galvin's chapter on "Guidelines on Style, Mechanics, and Language Usage." In particular: 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) .	10	
TOTAL	100	