PUAD 825
Public Policy and Urban Administration
Fall 2007

Professor Kelly LeRoux  Thursdays, 2:30 p.m. to 5:20 p.m.
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The syllabus and other information related to the course will be available through the university blackboard system http://courseware.ku.edu/. Announcements related to the course will be posted here as well, so be sure to check in regularly.

Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to urban public policy and the variety of policy tools used to address municipal, urban, and metropolitan problems. The first part of the course examines U.S. urban policy in the context of intergovernmental relations, highlighting the ways in which local governments are interdependent with one another, their states, and the federal government. The second part of the course looks at the basic differences in forms of local government in America and examines the consequences, or outcomes created by different local government political structures. Students are then exposed to selected topics of importance in urban policy including housing, economic development, and methods for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of local public services. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to the logic and principles of microeconomics, and gain an understanding of how these principles apply to urban and metropolitan policy. Students will also learn how these principles can only take public servants so far because they often overlook the complexities of public preferences, as well values that are important to the public service profession such as social equity.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to enhance professional competencies in the following areas:

• Service Management: service standards, service analysis, service delivery.
• Administrative Policy-Making: policy formulation, policy expectations.
• External Awareness: policy trends, working in a political environment, external policy impact.
• Strategic Management: long-term outlook, external awareness.
• Communication: verbal, written.
**Required Texts**

The majority of required readings are articles published in academic journals and policy institute reports. These readings will be available via the university library system: [http://eres.lib.ku.edu/eres/courseindex.aspx?page=search](http://eres.lib.ku.edu/eres/courseindex.aspx?page=search). The password for the course page is **metropolitan**.

There are two required books for the course:


**Grading**

- Mid-term exam: 30%
- Final exam: 20%
- Topic presentation: 20%
- Research Paper: 25%
- Cost-benefit simulation: 5%

It is PUAD department policy to issue only whole grades (no plusses or minuses). The following grading scale is used: 100-90=A; 89-80=B; 79-70=C; 69-60=D; 59 and below=F. Final course grades will be determined by the cumulative total of the weighted averages listed above.

**Assignments**

**Preparation and Participation in Weekly Discussions**– Given that the class meets only once per week, attendance is critical. We will have discussions each class session that relate to the reading material, so missing class will cause you to miss out on an important of the educational experience. Students should come prepared to discuss reading materials and to contribute to the class discussion every week.

**Exams** – There will be two exams covering the material from the required readings, lectures, and in-class discussions. Exams will be take-home and essay format. Note that the mid-term exam is worth slightly more than the final.

**Topic Presentation** – Each student will be responsible for doing a 20-30 minute (including Q&A time) in-class presentation on a topic/policy tool that corresponds to the week’s material. I will distribute the list of topics the second week of class for students to sign up for one. Some students may wish to structure their presentations as a case presentation, focusing on a specific city’s use of that policy tool. Students should consult with the instructor prior to preparing their presentation for guidance and suggestions on supplementary materials to draw upon. The presentation is worth 20% of your final grade, and therefore it is expected that students will put considerable effort into preparing their presentations. Some weeks we will have two students presenting, so you are highly encouraged to coordinate your presentations to minimize overlap.
Urban Issue Research Paper – Students are required to write a 10-12 page research paper on an urban issue of their choice that we have touched upon in the course. Topics can include one of the presentation topics or some variation on one of the topics. Each of the presentation topics are amenable to a 10-12 page research paper, so students may wish to develop their presentation topic into a research paper. Or, they may elect another topic. Either way, students should inform the instructor of their topic choice no later than the date of the mid-term.

This is a research paper. This means you must investigate the academic literature on the topic. You may also consult trade publications that may be appropriate to the topic, but they should not serve as the only source of your information. Your paper should speak to the following types of questions: What is known about the topic/policy tool you are examining? How effective has this policy tool been proven to be? Does it work better for some circumstances more than others? Certain places, or for certain services, etc? Sources of information must be properly referenced, using standard citation formats (consult the APA style manual or the Chicago Manual of Style). The paper must be typed, double-spaced in 12 point font and conform to standard conventions of English language. Papers should read as professional work products, as though you were writing for a government agency or policy think tank.

Academic Misconduct
Cheating, plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty or misconduct are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Incidents of such will be addressed according the university policy and procedures. The following is Article II, Section 6 of the University Senate Rules and Regulations, revised August 2004.

- 2.6.1 Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another's work; violation of regulations or ethical codes for the treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.

Week 1 (8/16): The American System of Local Government: An Overview

- Course Overview & Introduction to the American system of local government

Week 2 (8/23): The State of Metropolitan America

- Basic concepts in public policy
- Morgan, England and Pelissero, 2007. Ch. 4 and 6
Week 3 (8/30): **Class Will Not Meet**

Week 4 (9/6): **Urban Policy in Intergovernmental Context: Federal & State Relations**

- Morgan, England and Pelissero, “Cities and the System of Intergovernmental Relations,” Chapters 1 and 2

Week 5 (9/13): **Urban Policy in Intergovernmental Context: Regionalism and Interlocal Cooperation**


Week 6 (9/20): **Regionalism Continued**


Week 7 (9/27): **Urban Governance Structures: Political and Reform Institutions**

- Chapter 3, Morgan, England and Pelissero, “Urban Political Structures”

**Week 8 (10/4): Housing and Theories of Residential Location Decisions**


Midterm exam distributed – they will be due on 10/18

**Week 9 (10/11): FALL BREAK - Class Will Not Meet**

**Week 10 (10/18): Service Delivery: Improving Efficiency**

• Morgan, England and Pelissero, Chapter 7 + pgs 238-254 in *Managing Urban America*

**Week 11 (10/25): Exercise in Cost-Benefit Analysis -- 10 Budig Hall**

Class will meet independently and work as a group to do a cost-benefit simulation
Week 12 (11/1):  **Service Delivery: Equity and Responsiveness**

- Morgan, England and Pelissero, pages 269-277 in *Managing Urban America*

Week 13 (11/8):  **Economic Development: Traditional Approaches to Growth**

- Morgan, England and Pelissero, Ch. 5 in *Managing Urban America*

Week 14 (11/15):  **Class Will Not Meet** - I will schedule individual meetings with you to discuss your research papers.

Week 15 (11/22):  **Class Will Not Meet** - Thanksgiving Break

Week 16 (11/29):  **Economic Development: Reactions to Traditional Approaches and Emergence of Alternatives**

- Rubin, H. 2000. *Renewing Hope within Neighborhoods of Despair: The Community Based Development Model* Ch. 1
Urban Research Papers Due
Final Exams Distributed

Week 17 (12/6): Cities as Places to Play: Downtown Development

- Rosentraub, Mark. 1997. “Sports and Downtown Development II: Cleveland, the Mistake by the Lake, and the Burning of Cuyahoga,” from *Major League Losers*
- Morgan, England and Pelissero, Ch. 12 in *Managing Urban America*
- Course wrap up

Week 18 (12/13): FINAL EXAMS DUE