

## PAUS 8031: Urban Political Economy Spring 2009

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Classroom S 206  
T 4:30-7:00  
Office Hours:  
W 1:30-3:30  
And by Appt.

The goal of this course is to provide an introduction to the study of urban political economy. We will begin this course by considering some basic concepts used in the study of political economy. This critical foundation will provide the basis for our exploration of political economy issues that are specific to urban areas. First we will consider the effects of the competition for growth among cities on policies adopted by cities, and the idea of the city as a "growth machine." We will also consider the effects of recent patterns of economic growth on the inner city and its residents. Then we will investigate how a broad range of political and economic forces can combine to influence urban outcomes, focusing on the cases of Detroit and Atlanta.

This course will provide students with a foundation in basic tools used by researchers in the study of political economy. In addition, this course should increase students' skills in summarizing and evaluating arguments made by scholars writing about a range of urban issues.

At the completion of this course students will be able:

- Define and identify market failures.
- Define and identify problems that may arise in collective action.
- Define and identify potential solutions to collective action problems.
- Apply the market failure framework to the provision of local services.
- Apply collective action principles to issues of local governance.
- Identify key economic and political factors that influence the development of cities.
- Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate scholarly research

### **Course Requirements:**

Students are responsible for performing several activities during this course. Each activity carries the following weight in determining the final grade:

Class Participation	10%
Journal Presentation	5%
Midterm Exam	30%
Paper	20%
Take-Home Examination	35%

### Exams

There will be 2 exams. The first exam will be an in-class midterm exam will count for 30% of the course grade. The second exam will be a take-home essay exam and will count 35% of the course grade. Both exams will be geared to testing your understanding of the key points made by the various readings and the course lectures.

### Paper

In this course, you will be asked to write one paper, approximately 7 pages in length. More detailed instructions will be provided later in the course. (20%)

### In-class Participation and Writing

There is no textbook for this course, so it is critical that you attend class regularly. I expect that you will come to class prepared. At the beginning of the class, I may ask you to write about a question relevant to the day's reading. I will occasionally ask you to submit this in-class writing, and it will be graded according to a 3 point scale (10%).

### Journal Presentations

I will ask you, in pairs, to provide the class with a brief introduction to a scholarly journal in urban affairs and an overview of an article in a current issue. I will provide the class with a list of relevant journals early in the course. (5%)

### Grade Calculations

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Grade Overall numeric score

A	94.00 – 100.00
A-	90.00 – 94.00
B+	87.00 – 89.99
B	83.00 – 86.99
B-	80.00 – 82.99
C+	77.00 – 79.99
C	73.00 – 76.99
C-	70.00 – 72.99
D	60.00 – 69.99
F	<60.00

### Texts:

Axelrod, Robert. 2006. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books.  
Wilson, William Julius. 1996. *When Work Disappears: World of the New Urban Poor*.  
University of Chicago.

How to obtain additional \* readings will be discussed in class.

**Please Note:**

- Any cases of plagiarism will be handled according to university guidelines as outlined in the student handbook. (also see section 409 in the Faculty Handbook)
- 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.

## Course Schedule – Tentative

### FOUNDATIONS

**1 and 2. Jan. 6, 13:**

#### **Introduction Thinking like an economist**

\*Robert H. Frank. 1991. *Microeconomics and Behavior*. McGraw-Hill: New York. p.3-20.

\*Steven Rhoads. 1985. *The Economist's View of World. Government, Markets, and Public Policy*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, p11-13, 17-31.

\*Clark C. Abt. 1977 "The Issue of Social Costs in Cost-Benefit Analysis of Surgery," in *Costs, Risks, and Benefits of Surgery*, edited by John P. Bunker, Benjamin Barnes, and Frederick Mosteller. Oxford University Press: New York, p. 40-55.

**3. Jan. 20:**

#### **The Relationship between Markets and Government**

\*Weimar, David and Aidan Vining. 1999. *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice* New Jersey: Prentice Hall. Chapt. 5.

### Collective Action and Cooperation

**4. Jan. 27:**

#### **The Prisoners' Dilemma and the Evolution of Cooperation**

Robert Axelrod. 2006. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books.

\*Axelrod, Robert, Rick Riolo, and Michael Cohen. 2002. "Beyond Geography: Cooperation with Persistent Links in the Absence of Clustered Neighborhoods." *Personality and Social Psychology Review* 6(4): 341-346.

\*Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.

**5. Feb. 3:**

#### **Common Pool Resource Dilemmas**

\*R.J. Johnston. 1996. *Nature, State, and Economy: A Political Economy of the Environment*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. John Wiley: Chichester, p.129-139.

\*Elinor Ostrom. 1992. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press, p. 30-45, 69-76.



**9. March 10****The Growth Machine**

\*Logan, John and Harvey Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes*. Univ. of California. Chpt. 2: 17-45; Chpt. 3 62-85

\*Schneider, Mark, Paul Teske, and Michael Mintrom. 1995. *Public Entrepreneurs*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 7.

**10. March 17****Economic Constraints in Urban Policymaking**

\*Peterson, Paul 1979. "A Unitary Model of Local Taxation and Expenditure Policies in the United States," *British Journal of Political Science* 9 (3): 281-314.

\*Wong, Kenneth. 1988. "Economic Constraint and Political Choice in Urban Policy-making." *American Journal of Political Science* 32: 1-18.

**11. March 24****Patterns of Growth in the Inner City**

\*Wilson, William Julius. 1996. *When Work Disappears: World of the New Urban Poor*. University of Chicago. Chapters 1-3, 6.

\*Wilson, William Julius. 2003. "Race, Class and Urban Poverty: A Rejoinder." *Ethnic and Racial Studies Special Issue - Scholarship on Race and Urban Poverty: Extending the Work of William Julius Wilson* 26.6 (November): 1096-1114.

**12. March 31****Social Capital  
The Economic Context of Civic Involvement**

\*Coleman, James. 1988. "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital." *American Journal of Sociology* 94: S95-S120.

\*Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Tuning In, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America," *PS* 24: 664-683.

\*Bowles, Samuel and Herbert Gintis. 2002. "Social and Community Governance." *The Economic Journal* 112(483): F419-F436.

\*Oliver, J. Eric. 1999. "The Effects of Metropolitan Economic Segregation on Local Civic Participation." *American Journal of Political Science* 43: 186-212.

**13. April 7**

**The Political Economy of Education Reform**

\*Chubb, John and Terry M. Moe 1990. *Politics, Markets, and America's Schools*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution. Selection.

\*Levin, Henry M. 1998. "Educational vouchers: Effectiveness, Choice and Costs," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, v17, n3: 373-392.

\*Schneider, Mark, Paul Teske, and Melissa Marschall, and Christine Roch.1998. "Shopping for Schools: In the Land of the Blind, The One-Eyed Parent May be Enough." *American Journal of Political Science* 42: 769-793.

\*\*\*\**Paper Due*

**14. April 14**

**Urban Regimes: Considering Michigan and Atlanta**

\*Stone, Clarence. 1998. "Regime Analysis and the Study of Urban Politics, A Rejoinder." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 20: 249-260.

\*Jones, Bryan and Lynn Bachelor. 1993. *The Sustaining Hand*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas.

**15. April 21**

**Conclusion**

Additional readings may be announced.

\*Take home final exam will be handed out. Due on Tuesday, April 28.