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 case of 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.

**Detailed Objectives:**

- 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:**

**Exams**
There will be 3 exams: 2 midterms (each 25%) and a final (30%). All exams will be geared to test your understanding of the key points made by the various readings and the course lectures.

**Papers**
In this course, you will be asked to write one 3 page paper (10%). This paper will apply some of the concepts covered during the first third of the course to a real-world urban issue. More detailed instructions will be provided with the assignment.
In-class Participation and Writing

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%).

Texts:

Required


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

Grade Calculation

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Overall numeric score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97.00 – 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94.00 – 97.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.00 – 94.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.00 – 89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.00 – 86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.00 – 82.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.00 – 79.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.00 – 72.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.00 – 69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please Note:

- All instructors must, on a date after the mid-point of the course (to be set by the Provost),
  1. Give a WF to all those students who are on their rolls, but no longer taking the class
     and
  2. Report the last day the student attended or turned in an assignment
- Any cases of plagiarism will be handled according to university guidelines as outlined in
  the student 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.
- The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
- Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping
  education at Georgia State University. Upon completing the course, please take the time
to fill out the online course evaluation.
- Do not use your cell phone during class. Please do not use it to text; this will distract
  other students.

Please note the following definition of plagiarism, from the student handbook:

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting another person’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism includes
any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgment,
including the submitting of another student’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism frequently involves
a failure to acknowledge in the text, notes, or footnotes the quotation of the paragraphs,
sentences, or even a few phrases written or spoken by someone else. The submission of research
or completed papers or projects by someone else is plagiarism, as is the unacknowledged use of
research sources gathered by someone else when that use is specifically forbidden by the faculty
member. Failure to indicate the extent and nature of one’s reliance on other sources is also a
form of plagiarism. Failure to indicate the extent and nature of one's reliance on other sources is
also a form of plagiarism. Any work, in whole or part, taken from the internet without properly
referencing the corresponding URL may be considered plagiarism. An author's name and the title
of the original work, if available, should also be included as part of the reference. Finally, there
may be forms of plagiarism that are unique to an individual discipline or course, examples of
which should be provided in advance by the faculty member. The student is responsible for
understanding the legitimate use of sources, the appropriate ways of acknowledging academic,
scholarly or creative indebtedness, and the consequences of violating this responsibility.
Course Schedule - Tentative

FOUNDATIONS

1. and 2. Jan 9, 16: Introduction
   Thinking like an economist


The Relationship between Markets and Government


Collective Action and Cooperation


4. Jan. 30: The Role of Selective Incentives and Group Size


Common Pool Resource Dilemmas


* Elinor Ostrom on managing "common pool" resources. Youtube Video. Link in D2L.
5. Feb 6: The Importance of Institutions


THE EFFECTS OF THE COMPETITION FOR GROWTH, INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND CHANGING ECONOMY ON CITIES

7. Feb 20: The Tiebout model


***Feb 27th: Full Semester Midpoint – Last Day to Withdraw***

8. Feb. 27: The Growth Machine


9. March 6: Considering the Effects of Recent Patterns of Economic Growth on the Inner City.


***Spring Break March 13***
10. March 20: Social Capital


11. March 27: SECOND MIDTERM

12. April 3: The Political Economy of Education Reform


13. April 10: The Interests of the Limited City


14. April 17: Wrap-Up

***April 24th FINAL EXAM (10:45am-1:15pm)***