



School of Public &
International Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

PADP 7580-S: Local Government Practicum
Department of Public Administration and Policy
Maymester 2021 (May 19 – June 9)

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Class Meeting Location: Baldwin Hall, 101D

Course Description

The local government practicum engages MPA students in a service-learning opportunity with a local government partner, identified through collaboration with the Georgia Municipal Association. Over the next three weeks, we will engage in a housing assessment survey for the City of Valdosta's Neighborhood Development office. The course will help students understand the critical links between housing and community development. The task for our practicum, as outlined by city officials, is described below:

This "boots on the ground" practicum will involve gathering data on the current status of the housing stock through a walking tour of two neighborhoods (Pinevale and Southside) in Valdosta, Georgia. This information will be used to assist the city in completing a new Community Redevelopment Plan, which will present the existing community assets and needs in the areas housing, employment, basic human services and education.

To prepare for this work, we will read about housing policy and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Through a series class meetings, we will reflect upon readings and train to conduct the housing assessment survey in Valdosta. Then, we will spend three days in the field completing the housing assessment survey and learning more about community development. When we return to Athens, several additional class sessions will be used to reflect upon our experience and prepare the data report for the City of Valdosta.

This class provides students a framework for thinking about the applied research task, equips students with additional analytical skills, and then provides space for collaboration and self-directed work to produce a report or policy brief for our community partner.

Student Learning Outcomes & MPA Program Competencies

This course is ideal for students in the local government management concentration, but develops basic research skills that may be deployed by public servants contributing to the public policy process in a variety of contexts. This course is an elective, but we have an opportunity to hone core MPA program competencies, as italicized below. The project for this semester

supports student advancement of competency #2 (policy process) and competency #3 (analyzing data).

- Students will identify and describe the primary federal and state policies that support housing and community development
- Students will examine housing quality in the field and apply an assessment rubric to collect data on housing quality
- Students will compose a summary of data for the client government, the City of Valdosta, to report their data collection efforts through oral presentation; or, as stated in our MPA student learning outcomes, *Students will develop the ability to interpret and persuasively communicate information regarding policy alternatives through memoranda and presentation.*
- Students will reflect upon their experience in the field to discuss their role as a public administration and policy professional

Recommended Book

One book is recommended for this course. The paperback version is listed here, but the publisher also offers an e-book and rental options.

Schwartz, Alex F. 2021. *Housing Policy in the United States, 4th edition*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-367-56391-2

Required Course Readings

Required readings are listed in the syllabus and links are provided in the class ELC page (elg.uga.edu). All readings are available for free online or through the UGA Library.

Library Resources

Graduate students should be familiar with the use of library resources. The public administration and policy subject guide from the UGA library is available through the following link: <https://guides.libs.uga.edu/public-administration-policy-guide>.

Additional Technology Requirement

Students will need access to a smart phone or portable electronic device to participate in the housing assessment survey. If you do not have access to such a device, please communicate with the instructor. You will be provided access to a Fulcrum account, but will need to download the free application. Information about the application is available online: <https://www.fulcrumapp.com/>

Grading and Evaluation

This class is an applied service-learning experience, and our success is interdependent. The final grade in the course is determined by four required assignments or activities, two based upon your work with colleagues in class and two the product of your own work and reflection.

Collection of Housing Assessment Data: All students are required to participate in the collection of housing assessment data in the field May 26 – 28 in the City of Valdosta. Students will collect data in teams of two, entering their assessment in the Fulcrum survey application on a smart phone or portable electronic device. The participation in the collection of the housing assessment data is central to our course. Students will also attend in participate in discussions with City of Valdosta officials, learning more about housing policy and community development at the local-level. This participation constitutes 50 % of the final grade for the course and will be assessed based upon a rubric provided in ELC.

Field Experience Reflection Essay: After returning from the field work in Valdosta, students will prepare and submit a personal reflection essay. This essay should describe how the student's experience in the field advanced their personal understanding of housing and community development, pointing to specific observations from the field and interactions with city officials. This essay should be about five pages in length, typed, double-space, in standard font with one inch margins. An evaluation rubric for this assignment is provided in ELC. The essay constitutes 20% of the final grade.

Housing Policy Quiz: A short online, open-book quiz evaluates student familiarity with and capacity to explain major housing policies in the United States, as discussed in our reading and class lectures. This online quiz is due by 2:00 PM on Monday, June 7. Students have one attempt to complete the quiz on ELC.

Class Oral Presentation of Data to City of Valdosta: Students will develop and deliver a final oral presentation for recorded/online delivery to City of Valdosta officials, conveying the results of our data collection efforts. The online presentation will be recorded during our class meeting on Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30 PM. This presentation contributes 20% to the final grade. An evaluation rubric is provided on ELC.

Field Work in Valdosta

During our field work in Valdosta, your hotel accommodations are provided by the City of Valdosta. Mileage reimbursement may be available from the Department of Public Administration and Policy, if you qualify. Meals are your individual responsibility. Please be prepared to work in a variety of weather conditions, and bring appropriate supplies and attire for sun, rain, and bugs. One t-shirt identifying you as a Local Government Practicum student will be provided. Consider bringing your additional UGA MPA shirt to wear on another day in the field. Plan to work from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM each day in Valdosta.

University Policies and Instructor Expectations for Students

All of the University's expectations for your conduct as a student apply in this class.

Academic Honesty: As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Plagiarism: Our capacity to learn and synthesize knowledge within the public administration profession depends upon our ability to build on the foundation of existing knowledge and

research. Recognizing and documenting the work of others is critical for all students, but especially for graduate students. When writing, students must take great care in how they reference ideas and information sources. Never use someone else's words or ideas in your writing without proper attribution. Serious penalties exist for academic misconduct and plagiarism. Students should read and be familiar with the following resources:

- UGA Academic Honesty Policy: Plagiarism
https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/Prohibited_Conduct/
- UGA Libraries Research Guide: Writing and Citing
<http://www.libs.uga.edu/researchguide/writing/index.html>

Class Participation: You are expected to maintain consistent engagement with class during the three week Maymester. You will be assigned a partner to work with during our time in Valdosta. Keep contact information for this individual handy, and engage with them in discussion about your progress in class. Use our time together to discuss and reflect on the course material, and to share information and insights about what you learn in the field.

Late Assignments: Because of the interdependent structure of our work, all work must be submitted on time. Failure to meet a deadline may result in penalties, in line with the grade bundles or specs listed above. If you have concern about a deadline due to your health or unexpected circumstances, communicate with the instructor about possible accommodations.

Communication with the Instructor: I welcome individual discussions about class content, challenges you encounter in your research, or your broader goals and interests in public service. You are welcome to schedule a meeting on my calendar for any reason. Please specify if you prefer a phone call or Zoom meeting when you schedule. I will endeavor to return all email within 24 hours.

Disabilities and Accommodations: If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>

Syllabus and Schedule Changes: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. The instructor will communicate changes in writing through your UGA email account.

PADP 7580 Schedule (May 2021)

Date and Time	Activity
May 19, 2021 ELC Video	An online video welcome students to class, reviews the syllabus, and provides a roadmap to work for the semester.
May 20, 2021 Athens Campus 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM	<p>Our class meeting on campus introduces students to housing as an element of community development efforts. Class includes reflection on readings and preparation for field work.</p> <p><i>Reading:</i></p> <p>Schwartz, Alex F. <i>Housing Policy in the United States</i>, 4th edition. New York: Routledge (Chapter 9, Pg. 238 – 276).</p> <p>Keating, W. Dennis. 2021. The right to housing: The goal versus the reality, in <i>The Routledge Handbook of Housing Policy and Planning</i>, edited by K.B. Anacker, M.T. Nguyen, and D.P. Varady. New York: Routledge.</p> <p>Orlebeke, Charles J. and John C. Weicher. 2014. How CDBG came to pass. <i>Housing Policy Debate</i> 24 (1): 14-45.</p>
May 24, 2021 Athens Campus 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM	<p>Our class meeting on campus introduces students to the process of the housing assessment survey.</p> <p><i>Reading:</i></p> <p>Newman, Sandra J. and Philip M.E. Garboden. 2013. Psychometrics of housing quality measurement in the American Housing Survey. <i>Cityscape</i> 15 (1): 293-306.</p> <p>Shannon, Jerry, Kimberly Skobba, Jermaine Durham, and Chase Polak. 2020. “Really Knowing” the Community: Citizen Science, VGI, and Community Housing Assessments. <i>Journal of Planning Education and Research</i>. DOI:10.1177/0739456X20976807</p>
May 26, 2021 Valdosta – Field Work 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Day one of field work welcomes students to Valdosta and begins the housing assessment survey. We will begin our day with city officials, learning about code enforcement, CDBG, and community development in Valdosta. Then, we will begin our survey work in the field.
May 27, 2021 Valdosta – Field Work 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Day two of field work continues the housing assessment survey.
May 28, 2021 Valdosta – Field Work 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Day three of field work completes the housing assessment survey.

<p>June 1, 2021 Athens Campus 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>Upon returning to Athens, we will reflect upon the CDBG program and housing quality in light of our experience in Valdosta. We will discuss how communities use housing assessment data in support of community development efforts.</p> <p><i>Reading:</i></p> <p>Dantico, Marilyn, Subjrajit Guhathakurta, and Alvin Mushkatel. 2007. Housing quality and neighborhood redevelopment: A study of neighborhood initiatives in Phoenix, Arizona. <i>International Journal of Public Administration</i> 30 (1): 23-45.</p> <p>Thomson, Dale E. and Harley Etienne. 2017. Fiscal crisis and community development: The Great Recession, support networks, and community development. <i>Housing Policy Debate</i> 27 (1): 137-165.</p>
<p>June 3, 2021 Athens Campus 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>This class session will focus on the summary of data from the housing assessment survey and the development of our oral presentation for the City of Valdosta.</p>
<p>June 8, 2021 Athens Campus 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>Our final class meeting includes a course summary by the instructor. Students will complete their oral presentation, conveying a summary of the data and Practicum project to City of Valdosta officials through a recorded Zoom meeting.</p>