

## **PADP 7520: Urban Policy**

*University of Georgia*

*School of Public and International Affairs*

*Department of Public Administration and Policy*

**Fall 2023**

Eric Zeemering, Ph.D.

Office: Baldwin Hall 202A

Phone: 706.542.2962

Email: [eric.zeemering@uga.edu](mailto:eric.zeemering@uga.edu)

Meetings: [www.calendly.com/zeemering](http://www.calendly.com/zeemering)

Class Schedule: Tuesdays, 7:00 PM to 9:50 PM

Class Location: Baldwin Hall, 102

Drop-In Hours: Tuesdays, 4:00 to 5:30 PM

*When the burdens of the presidency seem unusually heavy, I always remind myself it could be worse. I could be a mayor.*

Lyndon B. Johnson (1967)

### **Course Description**

Myriad challenges face large cities in the United States as they stake out dynamic positions in the global economy while attending to the basic service needs of local residents. Cities also confront challenging narratives about decline in the face of economic change and the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Urban policy pertains to the actions of cities, but also to the actions of states and the national government as they set the legal and fiscal stage for local action. Our class is designed to help students think about the capacity of cities to respond to public demands and address complex policy problems within the American federal system.

We survey the context for city policymaking. Through reading and discussion, we review the legacy of land-use and zoning decisions for current patterns of physical development and human inequality. We also examine current disruptions to the urban policy landscape from the sharing economy and new technologies. *The goal of this exploration of urban policy is to help students understand the major constraints that cities face as they address public policy challenges, and to highlight opportunities for innovation through civic, intergovernmental, and multi-sector engagement.*

To facilitate a high-level of engagement in this graduate-level course, students will be asked to complete weekly readings that frame our discussion. Our class discussions will offer a framework for discussing urban policy based upon leading research in the field. We will illustrate key concepts with reference to examples in Atlanta and other cities. Additionally, students will select a major U.S. city to learn about in-depth through the development of an urban policy journal. Entries in the policy journal will challenge students to demonstrate an understanding of the city's demographic and economic characteristics, demonstrate the ability to identify city ordinances and primary policy documents, and demonstrate the ability to describe and analyze the scope of stakeholder engagement in urban policy debates. Through the urban policy journal and specialization in a major U.S. city, students will be co-producers of learning through their participation in class.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this class, students will have developed the knowledge and skills to advance the following outcomes:

- ✓ Articulate a basic understanding of the institutional context for urban policymaking in the U.S. federal system
- ✓ Demonstrate familiarity with U.S. Census data and other secondary data sources to describe a city's demographic and economic characteristics over time
- ✓ Demonstrate the ability to investigate a city ordinance and provide a briefing on the policy's origins and background
- ✓ Organize a comparative policy presentation on a topic in urban policy and engage the class in dialogue, similar to what might be required for a professional conference
- ✓ Demonstrate a strong familiarity with contemporary policy debates in Atlanta and one other major U.S. city

## UGA MPA Program Competencies

As an elective, this class can aid students in their development of at least two core MPA program competencies.

First, the MPA program asks students to understand and ***participate in the policy process*** at the federal, state, and local levels. This class advances our understanding of the policy process at the local level. By reviewing city ordinances and policy documents, and through information provided by guest speakers, we will gain insight into how policy alternatives are discussed in major U.S. cities.

Second, the MPA program asks students to ***communicate with a diverse workforce and citizenry***. By developing an in-depth understanding of Atlanta and one other major U.S. city, students will think about diverse urban communities and learn how public service professionals in government and the non-profit sector engage with the public in policy development and implementation.

Students should consider if any element of their urban policy portfolio provides a strong example of their work to include with the portfolio submitted with their capstone paper at the conclusion of the MPA program.

## Required Books

Three books are required for this class. The titles have been provided to the University of Georgia Bookstore and the titles are also available from online retailers.

Trounstein, Jessica. 2018. *Segregation by design: Local politics and inequality in American cities*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1-108-45498-8

Willison, Charley E. 2021. *Ungoverned and out of sight: Public health and the political crisis of homelessness in the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-754832-5

Zwick, Austin and Zachary Spicer, eds. 2021. *The platform economy and the smart city: Technology and the transformation of urban policy*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. ISBN: 978-0-2280-0674-9

## E-Learning Commons (ELC) and Electronic Resources

Students can access online information about our class at <http://elc.uga.edu>. Graduate students should become familiar with searching for journal articles and books using the library's holdings and electronic databases. Many journals are free to you through your status as a student at the University of Georgia, and you should make use of these resources!

## Assignments and Grading

Assignments will be evaluated using a point system, with 100 points possible for the class. Note, the grade "A" indicates "outstanding" achievement. The following scale will be used to assign letter grades in this class:

|                  |    |                  |    |                  |   |
|------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------|---|
| 100 – 95 points  | A  | 86.9 – 83 points | B  | 75.9 – 70 points | C |
| 94.9 – 90 points | A- | 82.9 – 80 points | B- | 69.9 – 60 points | D |
| 89.9 – 87 points | B+ | 79.9 – 76 points | C+ | 59.9 – 0 points  | F |

| <i>Assignment</i>                | <i>Total Points</i> | <i>Due Date</i>    |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Urban Policy Journal – Part 1    | 10                  | August 29, 2023    |
| Urban Policy Journal – Part 2    | 10                  | September 26, 2023 |
| Urban Policy Journal – Part 3    | 10                  | October 31, 2023   |
| Urban Policy Journal – Part 4    | 10                  | November 28, 2023  |
| Urban Policy Paper               | 20                  | November 21, 2023  |
| Team Comparative Policy Briefing | 20                  | Assigned Dates     |
| Take-Home Final Exam             | 20                  | December 8, 2023   |

*Urban Policy Journal:* The primary assignment for the semester will be the development of an urban policy journal. During the first week of class, students will be prompted to select a major U.S. city that they would like to investigate in-depth during the course of the semester. Each week, our class notes prompt students to investigate specific material related to their city. Students should begin to build a binder or folder to collect primary documents, data, and news coverage from their city. The assignment sheet for the urban policy journal provides prompts to write policy briefs related to this material. This project demonstrates the student's capacity to explore and learn about a new city, collect public documents and primary data, and synthesize information in written form. Detailed instructions will be provided during the first week of class, and this project will be discussed throughout the semester.

*Urban Policy Paper:* Students will write a policy briefing paper to analyze and recommend action for one policy challenge facing the city they investigate for their urban policy journal. The assignment encourages students to go beyond the reading by a) identifying and analyzing primary data, and b) reading additional research literature in urban policy to frame recommendations. The assignment information sheet will be posted in ELC.

*Team Comparative Policy Briefing:* In small teams, students will be responsible for preparing a comparative policy briefing, analyzing and explaining differences in urban policy. Student teams will be assigned early in the semester. The assignment will require students to incorporate discussion of one international city in addition to the students' selected urban policy journal cities. To prepare for this assignment, we will discuss comparative case analysis in public policy during our class. Students will be assessed based upon the quality of the final presentation in addition to peer assessment of individual contributions to the team product.

*Take-Home Final Exam:* To complete the semester, students will demonstrate their understanding of class content through a take-home final exam. The exam will contain four questions and students will select two questions to answer. Observe a self-imposed time-limit of four hours to complete the exam. Students will have one week to complete the take-home exam and the document must be submitted online through the ELC.

### **Expectations and Guidelines**

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

*UGA Student Honor Code:* "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others. A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty can be found at [www.uga.edu/ovpi](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi).

*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/](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>

*Mental Health and Wellness Resources:* If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services.

- Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support: <https://caps.uga.edu/>.
- 24/7 crisis support is available at 706-542-2273 or <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/>
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.

*Student Parents and Caregivers:* If you are a parent or primarily responsible for providing care for a family member, communicate with the instructor about reasonable accommodations as soon as possible. In unexpected circumstances, children who are able to support a quiet learning environment are welcome in class; however, we will not modify course content or class material as a result of children in attendance.

*Electronic Devices:* Please silence any device that may make a noise that disrupts the learning environment. Save text messages and emails for the break or after class. Laptop computers or tablets may be used for taking notes and class related activities, but students must refrain from participating in external online activities unrelated to our course work. Please help minimize electronic distractions for your colleagues in class.

*Attendance:* Graduate seminars require active participation. Many public administration students have internships or full-time employment in addition to their class responsibilities. Work obligations are not an acceptable excuse for an absence from class. Participation in class discussion is critical to your graduate education, and attendance must be a priority.

*Class Discussion:* Complete the reading assigned for each class meeting and be prepared for discussion. Make sure everyone has an opportunity for input. We are interested in each person's contribution, so please understand if I ask for brevity or a conclusion to a chain of discussion.

*Late Assignments:* Deadlines have been structured so that the instructor can provide regular and periodic feedback on your understanding and application of the course material. Assignments submitted after the class meeting on the due date will receive a 20 percent point penalty. No late assignments will be accepted two weeks after the deadline or after the final class meeting. No late final exams will be accepted. Students should consult with the instructor about extreme or severe circumstances for which these conditions might be waived.

*Communication with the Instructor:* If you have questions or if there are topics you would like to discuss in greater detail, make use of my office hours or schedule an appointment with me. During office hours and periodically, I will also be available via Skype. Email is the best method to reach me, and I strive to return email within 24 hours. Make use of these communication resources.

*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.

## Schedule

### Week 1: Delineating Urban Policy (August 22, 2023)

*Focus Question: What is urban policy?*

Imbroscio, David. 2019. The perils of rationalism in American urban policy. *Urban Affairs Review* 55 (1): 74-107.

Task: Identify a city that you would like to study in-depth for the summer semester. Become familiar with the city website, major local newspapers, and alternative news sites online.

### Week 2: Cities and the Urban Future (August 29, 2023)

*Focus Question: How does urban policy contribute to urban prosperity?*

Glaeser, Edward and David Cutler. 2021. *Survival of the City: The Future of Urban Life in an Age of Isolation*. New York: Penguin Books. Read Chapter 7.

Available online from UGA Library:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ugalib/detail.action?docID=6705399>

Khan, Shahed and Aqiq Uz Zaman. 2018. Future cities: conceptualizing the future based on a critical examination of existing notions of cities. *Cities* 72 (B): 217-225.

### Week 3: Are Cities in Decline? (September 5, 2023)

*Focus Question: What policy interventions are identified as ready to address urban decline?*

Weaver, Timothy. 2017. Urban crisis: The genealogy of a concept. *Urban Studies* 54 (9): 2039-2055.

#### *Detroit Discussion Example*

Eisinger, Peter. 2014. Is Detroit Dead? *Journal of Urban Affairs* 36 (1): 1-12.

Tabb, William K. 2015. If Detroit is dead, some things need to be said at the funeral. *Journal of Urban Affairs* 37 (1): 1-12.

Online Resource: <https://www.michiganradio.org/tags/detroit-bankruptcy-10-years-later>

Task: Review U.S. Census Bureau data for your city over the last several decades. Be prepared to describe major demographic trends in your community. To share your findings, make at least one chart to bring to class to share with colleagues.

#### **Week 4: Are Cities in Decline after COVID-19? (September 12, 2023)**

Florida, Richard, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose and Michael Storper. 2023. Critical commentary: Cities in a post-COVID world. *Urban Studies* 60 (8): 1509-1531.

Rosenthal, Stuart S., William C. Strange and Joaquin A Urrego. 2022. Are city centers losing their appeal? Commercial real estate, urban spatial structure, and COVID-19. *Journal of Urban Economics* 127: 103381.

#### **Week 5: Land Use and Urban Inequality (September 19, 2023)**

Trounstein, Jessica. 2018. *Segregation by design: Local politics and inequality in American cities*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

*Recommended:*

Markley, Scott N. 2018. New urbanism and race: An analysis of neighborhood racial change in suburban Atlanta. *Journal of Urban Affairs* 40 (8): 1115-1131.

#### **Week 6: Gentrification (September 26, 2023)**

Lloyd, Harry R. 2023. Gentrification: A philosophical analysis and critique. *Journal of Urban Affairs* <https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2023.2216889>

Morel, Domingo, Akira Drake Rodriguez, Mara Sidney, Nakeefa Bernard Garay, and Adam Straub. 2022. Measuring and explaining stalled gentrification in Newark, New Jersey: The role of racial politics. *Urban Affairs Review* 56 (6): 1585-1621.

#### **Week 7: Neighborhood Change (October 3, 2023)**

Betancur, John J. and Janet L. Smith. 2016. *Claiming neighborhood: New ways of understanding urban change*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Pg. 23-45.

Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity. 2019 *American Neighborhood Change in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Law School.

- Available online: [https://www.law.umn.edu/sites/law.umn.edu/files/metro-files/american\\_neighborhood\\_change\\_in\\_the\\_21st\\_century\\_full\\_report\\_4-1-2019.pdf](https://www.law.umn.edu/sites/law.umn.edu/files/metro-files/american_neighborhood_change_in_the_21st_century_full_report_4-1-2019.pdf)
- Atlanta Supplement: [https://www.law.umn.edu/sites/law.umn.edu/files/metro-files/atlanta\\_incomechange\\_report.pdf](https://www.law.umn.edu/sites/law.umn.edu/files/metro-files/atlanta_incomechange_report.pdf)

#### **Week 8: Homelessness & Health (October 10, 2023)**

*Virtual Guest:* Dr. Charley Willison

Willison, Charley E. 2021. *Ungoverned and out of sight: Public health and the political crisis of homelessness in the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1-4, 6 and 8.

### **Week 9: Sustainable Cities (October 17, 2023)**

Beatley, Timothy. 2011. *Biophilic cities: Integrating nature into urban design and planning*. Washington, DC: Island Press. Pg. 45-81.

Krause, Rachel M. and Christopher V. Hawkins. 2021. Improving cities' implementation of sustainability objectives. *Cities* 113 (103167).

### **Week 10: Urban Agriculture (October 24, 2023)**

Milbourne, Paul. 2021. Growing public spaces in cities: Community gardening and the making of new urban environments in publicness. *Urban Studies*: 58 (14): 2901-2919.

Cutts, Bethany B., Jonathan K. London. Shaina Meiners, Kirsten Schwarz & Mary L. Cadenasso. 2017. Moving dirt: Soil, lead, and the dynamic spatial politics of urban gardening. *Local Environment* 22 (8): 998-1018.

### **Week 11: Entertainment Policies (October 31, 2023)**

Eisinger, Peter. 2000. The politics of bread and circuses: Building the city for the visitor class. *Urban Affairs Review* 35 (3): 316-333.

Saito, Leland. 2019. Urban development and the growth with equity framework: The National Football League stadium in downtown Los Angeles. *Urban Affairs Review* 55 (5): 1370-1401.

Tossutti, Livianna. 2023. Municipal parks, recreation and cultural services in an age of migration and superdiversity. *Urban Affairs Review* 59 (4): 1214-1249.

### **Week 12: Urban Security – Part 1 (November 7, 2023)**

Pizarro, Jesenia M., Richard C. Sadler, Jason Goldstick, Brandon Turchan, Edmund F. McGarrell, and Marc A. Zimmerman. 2020. Community-driven disorder reduction: Crime prevention through a clean and green initiative in a legacy city. *Urban Studies* 57 (14): 2956-2972.

Gaston, Shytierra and Rod K. Brunson. 2020. Reasonable suspicion in the eye of the beholder: Routine policing in racially different disadvantaged neighborhoods. *Urban Affairs Review* 56(1): 188-227.

### **Week 13: Urban Security – Part 2 (November 14, 2023)**

Savitch, H.V. 2005. An anatomy of urban terror: Lessons from Jerusalem and elsewhere. *Urban Studies* 42 (3): 361-395.

Wiig, Alan. 2018. Secure the city, revitalize the zone: Smart urbanization in Camden, New Jersey. *Environment and Planning C* 36 (3): 403-422.



**Week 14: Technological Transformation – Part 1 (November 21, 2023)**

*Virtual Guest: Dr. Zachary Spicer, York University*

Zwick, Austin, and Zachary Spicer, eds. 2021. *The platform economy and the smart city: Technology and the transformation of urban policy*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. Chapter 1 and 10-13

**Week 15: Technological Transformation – Part 2 (November 28, 2023)**

Zwick, Austin, and Zachary Spicer, eds. 2021. *The platform economy and the smart city: Technology and the transformation of urban policy*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press. Chapter 2, 3, 7, 9

**Week 16: Take-Home Final Exam (December 8, 2023)**

**Due: Friday, December 8, 2023, 11:55 PM EDT via E-Learning Commons**