

University of La Verne
Department of Public Administration
Bachelor of Public Administration Program
PADM 313. Urban Studies

Summer 2023
CRN 1081

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Course Description (from the Catalog)

This course examines the political, economic, historical, and social factors shaping urban/suburban areas and the complex ways in which these factors unfold. Central questions examined include: How is the power wielded in cities, and by whom? How do people form and maintain a sense of community within metropolitan (urban/suburban) settings, and how do people adapt to "life amongst strangers?" How dominant are economic forces in determining how cities change and adapt over time? How do race and ethnicity shape our experiences living together in a multicultural society? This course will focus on how the social sciences have posed and addressed various "urban dilemmas."

Course Objectives

- Develop awareness of how metropolitan areas evolve.
- Understand the role cities play in fostering economic and cultural development.
- Comprehend the forces that shape urban/suburban areas.
- Understand how metropolitan life garners different meanings for different subgroups through the exploration of visual arts (including film), literature, and social science.
- Learn to manage one's perception of cities in a way that empowers students to view themselves as active participants in their community life.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the various dynamic components that shape urban/suburban growth and change.
- Demonstrate a deepened appreciation for the opportunities and challenges contemporary metropolitan life poses to governmental and cultural institutions.
- Demonstrate comprehension of challenges and opportunities cities and regions are facing pre- and post-Coronavirus pandemic.

Course Format

This course is a 100% online, asynchronous, self-paced course with assignment deadlines. I will post weekly guidelines, materials, and weekly response posting prompts on Sunday night for the coming week. You should work on assignments throughout the week and complete weekly assignments by Sunday of the week. I will be available via Zoom by appointment for questions or concerns regarding the course and course materials. Please feel free to contact me for assistance.

Textbooks

- **Edward Glaeser. 2011. *Triumph of the City*. New York: Penguin Press.** Edward Glaeser is a professor of economics at Harvard University. He is considered to be the foremost economist of cities. He defends the role of cities as places where businesses and residents can exploit the benefits of social and economic interactions. This book offers a variety of topics in urban studies for a wider audience. It was published a decade ago, but many of the issues he presents in the book are still relevant to post-pandemic urban lives.
- **Edward Glaeser and David Cutler. 2021. *Survival of the City*. New York: Penguin Press.** E-copy is available through our Wilson Library. Click here to read it for free.
https://laverne.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UOLV_INST/14btbtr/cdi_proquest_ebookcentral_EBC6705399 This book discusses challenges, changes, and opportunities that the coronavirus pandemic poses on American cities and regions. Here's the discussion on the book hosted by the Commonwealth Club of California:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX0ovf_x2UM
- Other reading and audio-visual materials will be available online.

Course Requirements

1. Weekly response posting on Blackboard (80% of grade, 10% each week)

A reading response posting is not a summary of your reading. It is a way of writing about your thinking about the reading or your reaction(s) to a reading. Your response is not a formal paper but should be well-thought-out, fully developed, and carefully written. It should demonstrate not only that you have carefully read the text (more than one time) but also that you have thought carefully about the text and engaged with it in some way. There will be a prompt each week for your posting.

- Due date: Last day (Sunday) of the week.
- Maximum word count for each response: 200-300 words.
- Grading criteria
 - A: Show critical thinking. Demonstrate a well-thought-out critique of class material.
 - B: Show understanding of the material, but discussions are not based on critical thinking.
 - C: Out of the maximum word count or not understanding the material. Mostly write about irrelevant opinions, and discussions are not based on course material.

2. Final reflection essay (10% of the grade)

The final essay is your reflection on the course materials, what you've learned that you did not know before, the most interesting topic(s) in the course, and how this course influenced your thinking about cities and regions. A detailed guideline will be posted on Blackboard.

- **Due date: Sunday, July 30.**

- Five pages maximum, double-spaced, times new roman 12 font size.
- Submission: PDF file via Blackboard > Final essay

3. Participation (10%)

This course is discussion and writing intensive. Student participation is key to creating the best learning environment. Thoughtful reading responses, preparedness, and active participation on the Blackboard discussion board will be highly encouraged and rewarded.

Attendance Policy

Weekly response posting is a mechanism to enforce your attendance. Check Blackboard on Sunday night or Monday morning for weekly topics and assignments, and complete your assignments by Sunday night.

Late Submissions

Your assignment will be considered late if it misses the set deadline. Your grade for the assignment will be reduced by 10% if you do not submit it by the deadline and then continue to fall by 10% within 24 hours after the deadline. Consult the Course Schedule.

Grading Scale

A	94-100	Has unusually sharp insights into the material; initiates thoughtful questions.
A-	90-93.9	Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well; writes clearly and logically.
B+	87-89.9	Grasps subject matter at a level considered "good to very good."
B	84-86.9	Is an active listener and participates in class discussions. Writes well.
B-	80-83.9	Accomplishes more than the minimum requirements.
C+	77-79.9	Demonstrates a satisfactory comprehension of the subject matter.
C	74-76.9	Accomplishes the minimum requirements. Communicates well.
C-	70-73.9	Has a good understanding of all materials.
D+	67-69.9	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class is below average.
D	64-66.9	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class is below average.
F	< 63	Quality and quantity of work in and out of the class is unacceptable.

Incomplete Grade

The designation an INC (incomplete) is authorized only when it is impossible for a student to complete the course due to illness or other justifiable cause and only upon formal application from the student.

Academic Honesty (from the University Catalog)

"Academic Honesty: Each student is responsible for performing academic tasks in such a way that honesty is not in question. Unless an exception is specifically defined by an instructor, students are expected to maintain the following standards of integrity:

- a. All tests, term papers, oral and written assignments, recitations, and all other academic efforts are to be the work of the student presenting the material.
- b. Any use of wording, ideas, or findings of other persons, writers, or researchers requires the explicit citation of the source; use of the exact wording requires a "quotation" format.
- c. Deliberately supplying material to a student for purposes of plagiarism is also culpable."

All written work associated with any class assignments submitted by a student implies that it is his or her own work. Use of anyone else's ideas, remarks, written material, opinions, etc. without appropriate written credit will be reported to the Office of the Dean and risk failing the course as well as expulsion from the University. Respect for another's ideas combined with individual professionalism will avoid any problems. All assistance received or references obtained from others must be documented. It is strongly recommended that you familiarize yourself with the information found on the University of La Verne website.

Professional Student Conduct Statement

"As a student in the College of Business and Public Management, I agree to always present myself in a professional manner and engage in conduct appropriate to a professional in my field while engaging in class-related work whether inside or outside the classroom. Inappropriate, disruptive, or unprofessional conduct are determined in the professor's sole discretion. Consequences may include failing the class, removal from the program, and/or referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action."

University Diversity Statement

The University supports a diverse and inclusive environment where students recognize and benefit from the life experiences and viewpoints of other students, faculty, and staff. Diversity is an active and intentional practice that supports difference and multiplicity to expand knowledge, educate capable citizens, develop the whole person, and serve our local and global communities. Promoting and sustaining diversity is a commitment to educational quality and the creation of positive, respectful learning communities.

Link to Social Justice Incident Report Form

If at any time during this course you witness or experience discrimination or injustice, we encourage you encouraged to report the incident through the [Social Justice Incident Report Form](#) available to all University of La Verne community members.

Accessibility Statement

University policies concerning students with disabilities are available through the Accessibility Services. Students may speak privately with the instructor for assistance by contacting the Director of Accessibility Services. If you have other requirements and wish to discuss non-

disability-related academic accommodations, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Contact information for Accessibility Services may be found at [Accessibility Services](#) or by calling 909.448.4938.

Title IX Statement

Federal obligations, faculty, and other employees are considered mandated reporters when it comes to experiences of interpersonal violence (sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking). Disclosures of such must be passed along to the University's Title IX Manager who can help provide support, remedies, and resources for individuals who have been impacted. More information can be found online at <https://laverne.edu/title-ix/> or title9manager@laverne.edu or 909-448-4078.

List of University Resources

- Important Dates: [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Campus Emergency Status](#)
- [ULV Covid-19 information](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)
- [Office of Campus Safety](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [ACS Student Resource Portal - Research](#)
- [Center for Neurodiversity, Learning, and Wellness](#)
- [Interfaith Calendar](#)

Disclaimer

I may need to make corrections, changes, or other alterations to the syllabus, course requirements, and other elements contained here. Such changes will be communicated to you via email or Blackboard. All matters related to student rights and responsibilities, as outlined in the ULV Catalog, are adopted here.

Weekly Topics and Readings

==== Week 1: Studying Cities ===== June 5-11

Overview, Topic, and Keywords

- Course Overview
- Overview of Urban Studies as a discipline
- Conceptualizing cities, urban, urban areas
- Key concepts and theories in Urban Studies

To-Dos and Dates

- Read three chapters in the *Handbook of Urban Studies*.
 - "Defining the City."
 - "Identifying the City."
 - "Studying the City."
- Watch [What is a City?](#) *The Atlantic*.
- **Assignment: Discussion board response posting. Go to Blackboard > Discussions > Week 1.**

==== Week 2: Agglomeration ===== June 12-18

Overview, Topic, and Keywords

- Why cities exist from the economic perspective: agglomeration economy
- Mechanisms of agglomeration economy
- Cost and benefits of agglomeration economy

To-Dos and Dates

- Read:
 - The Triumph of the City, Introduction & Ch.1.
 - [Everything you wanted to know about agglomeration](#). Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. 2020.
- Watch [Why Tech Firms Flock to Expensive Cities?](#) *Wall Street Journal*
- Explore <https://www.clustermapping.us/>
- **Assignment: Discussion board response posting. Go to Blackboard > Discussions > Week 2.**

==== Week 3: Urban Housing ===== June 19-25

Overview, Topic, and Keywords

- Urban housing
- Gentrification and displacement
- Urban housing policies, e.g., rent control, inclusionary zoning

To-Dos and Dates

- Read:
 - The Triumph of the City, Ch. 6.
 - Survival of the City, Ch. 8.
 - "Zoning" in the Encyclopedia of Housing.

- “Gentrification” in the Encyclopedia of Housing
- Watch
 - [The Affordable Housing Crisis](#). PBS Frontline.
 - [In Defense of “Gentrification Building.”](#) Vox.
 - [What’s wrong with America’s house](#). CNBC. 2022.
- **Assignment: Discussion board response posting. Go to Blackboard > Discussions > Week 3.**

==== Week 4: Urban Sprawl & Suburbanization ==== Jun 26-July 2

Overview, Topic, and Keywords

- Urban sprawl & suburbanization
- Land use regulations
- NIMBY and politics of land regulation

To-Dos and Dates

- Read:
 - The Triumph of the City, Ch.7.
 - Anthony Flint. 2006. This Land: The Battle over Sprawl and the Future of America. Johns Hopkins University Press. Chs.2 & 9.
 - Chapter 2. Suburbia’s Promise, and Curse
 - Chapter 9. The Density Dilemma
 - “Suburbanization” in the Encyclopedia of Housing
- Watch
 - [Katherine Levine Einstein on Neighborhood Defenders](#). Econtalk. 2020.
- **Assignment: Discussion board response posting. Go to Blackboard > Discussions > Week 4.**

==== Week 5: Special Topic – Homelessness ==== June 3-9

Overview, Topic, and Keywords

- Homelessness

To-Dos and Dates

- Read:
 - UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy. 2021. “The Making of a Crisis: A History of Homelessness in Los Angeles.”
 - [Understanding LA's Homelessness Issues](#) (Ethan Ward. 2021. LAist).
 - Suzanne Fitzpatrick. 2012. “Homelessness.” Sage Handbook of Housing Studies.
- Watch [L.A.’s Big Debate: Homelessness](#). Los Angeles voters have identified homelessness as the top issue in the election for L.A.’s next Mayor. KCRW and the L.A. Times are teaming up to devote a whole debate to one single question: “How will you house the unhoused?” Please join KCRW’s housing and homelessness reporter Anna Scott and L.A. Times columnist and host Gustavo Arellano for this in-depth discussion with Karen Bass, Kevin de León, and Gina Viola.
- **Assignment: Discussion board response posting. Go to Blackboard > Discussions > Week 5.**

==== Week 6: Urban Sustainability ==== July 10-16

Overview, Topic, and Keywords

- Sustainability
- Resilience

To-Dos and Dates

- Read:
 - The Triumph of the City, Ch. 8.
 - “Constructing and contesting resilience in post-disaster urban communities”. SAGE Handbook of New Urban Studies.
 - Anthony Flint. 2006. This Land: The Battle over Sprawl and the Future of America. Johns Hopkins University Press. Ch.11. “Planning and Disaster.”
- Watch [Urban Sustainability](#).
- **Assignment: Discussion board response posting. Go to Blackboard > Discussions > Week 6.**

==== Week 7: Urban Health & Safety ==== July 17-23

Overview, Topic, and Keywords:

- Public health in urban context
- Contagion and externalities
- Public safety and crime control

To-Dos and Dates

- Read:
 - The Triumph of the City, Ch. 4.
 - The Survival of the City, Chs. 1-4. Ch. 9 about policing.
- Watch
 - [Police on Trial](#). PBS Frontline. 2022.
 - [What Happened to Defunding the Police Movement?](#) Vice. 2022.
- **Assignment: Discussion board response posting. Go to Blackboard > Discussions > Week 7.**

==== Week 8: Urban Governance ==== July 24-30

Overview, Topic, and Keywords

- Urban and regional governance
- Challenges in urban governance

To-Dos and Dates

- Read:
 - Jon Pierre. 2016. “Urban and Regional Governance.” *Handbook of Theories of Governance*.
 - Matthew E. Kahn and Mac McComas. 2021. “Improving Urban Governance.” In *Unlocking the Potential of Post-Industrial Cities*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Ch.6.
- **Assignment: Discussion board response posting. Go to Blackboard > Discussions > Week 8.**