

## **UST 300 Economics of Policy Analysis**

**Instructor:** Dr. Ronald Berkman

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**Office:** UR 330B

**Meeting Place:** UR 25

**Meeting Time:** Tuesday 6:00- 8:50 PM

**Office Hours:**

(alternative hours per request)

### **Description:**

The course will explore a range of issues that large American cities confront and policies that have been implemented or promoted as remedial measures to current and future challenges. Our goal is to understand the historical, political, economic, and social issues that shape contemporary cities, particularly large cities in the Midwest, often referred to as the Rust Belt or Legacy Cities. There has never been a more interesting and daunting time to explore the current and future trajectory of cities as the pandemic and social justice movements have affected the urban landscape in ways we are only beginning to contemplate. This course has required online content.

### **Outcomes:**

- 1) Understand the complexity of urban America and the challenges and opportunities ahead.
- 2) Promote a holistic understanding of issues such as housing, poverty, economic development, criminal justice, education etc.
- 3) Identify how policy is generally formulated and how political actors and constituents shape the policy agenda.
- 4) Seek to determine what policies have been effective and the reasons for their effectiveness. identifying policies that have failed to address their stated roles and identify why they have or haven't.

- 5) Explain how the pandemic may impact cities of varying racial, social, and economic composition. Present examples of how cities have established a new policy agenda to address anticipated outcomes across the urban landscape.

**Required Texts:**

Mallach, Allan. *The Divided City: Poverty and Prosperity in Urban America*. Island Press.

ISBN: 139781610917810

*Other readings will be posted electronically or distributed in hard copy.*

**Course Requirements:**

Attendance and participation are a requirement of this course. Students are required to complete all assigned readings.

There will be 3 written assignments for the term and 2 policy papers (3 to 4) pages. Each assignment will represent a body of material covered in the readings, lectures, and discussions. Together the assignments will require written material, presentation, and analysis of data, and the formulation of actual policy.

The first two papers will require you to take a position of public policy issues and be prepared to articulate and defend your position in class.

The first policy to be covered will concern the proposition in session **14** whether the guaranteed income would have an impact on poverty in cities. The discussion of that policy is in the reading for session **14** thus you will need to read this article and write your paper well before the class session on October **18<sup>th</sup>**.

The second policy paper and debate concern the issue of gentrification. The reading on the subject is in session 17 “Gentrification and its Discontents”; this assignment mirrors the previous policy analysis and debate.

We will collectively decide the research assignment which will satisfy the Final Exam as well.

You will have seven weeks from the start of the term to prepare these papers so start early.

**Grading:**

Participation- 20%

Midterm- 15%

Policy Paper 30%

Final - 35%

CSU uses the following letter grades. In the Levin College the letter grades follow this numeric scale:

94 through 100: A

90 through 93: A-

87 through 89: B+

83 through 86: B

80 through 82: B-

70 through 79: C

69 and below: F

The grade of “X” can be assigned by the instructor when an attending/participating student has stopped attending/participating without notification and has not completed all assignments for reasons that cannot be determined by the end of the grading period. An “X” automatically becomes an F if not resolved by the end of instruction of the following semester. An “X” also will be assigned by the University Registrar when no grade is submitted by an instructor.

The “I” grade (Incomplete) is given when the work in a course has been generally passing, but some specifically required task has not been completed through no fault of the student. An “T” grade can be assigned by the instructor when all three of the following conditions are met:

- 1) Student is regularly attending/participating in the class and has the potential to pass the course;
- 2) Student has not completed all assignments and has stopped attending/participating for reasons deemed justified by the instructor; and

- 3) Student has notified the instructor prior to the end of the grading period

Note: Grammar, writing style, and presentation are evaluated in all exercises. If you are unsure of your writing abilities, please use the CSU writing center. Grading includes the presentation of all tables, spelling, writing style, and grammar.

**Late Work. Special Needs and Circumstances:**

I recognize that you are all busy with many demands on your time. Should life circumstances arise that make regular attendance unlikely or impossible, please consult the College's Advisor or Assistant Dean for Student Services. They can direct you to the University's available resources and help you to navigate moving forward with coursework. Absences will be considered excused if they meet the University policy for excused absences or by the instructor discretion, and excused absences will impact due dates at the instructor's discretion and when consulted prior to the due date. Otherwise, there is a 5% penalty for each day an assignment is late. Late exams will not be accepted.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations , auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216) 687-2015. The Office is located in MC 147. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.

**A Note on Misconduct:**

According to University Policy 3344-21-02, "Academic misconduct refers to any fraudulent actions or behaviors that affect the evaluation of a student's academic performance or record of academic progress." This includes cheating, plagiarism, and tampering. For a full description of terms and procedures in the event that faculty discover academic misconduct, refer to [https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/3344-21-02\\_0.pdf](https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/3344-21-02_0.pdf)

While students should read the student code of conduct in its entirety, emphasis is additionally placed upon review of definitions and procedures involving disruption, harassment, and sexual misconduct, found at: <https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/3344-83-04%20-%20eff.%208-17-15.pdf>

I reserve the right to remove from the classroom any student who chooses to engage in disrespectful or disruptive behavior.

## ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

<b>Week 1</b> Session 1 8/29/2023	Introduction, Review of Syllabus, Discussion of Assignments	
9/4/2023	No Class- Labor Day	
<b>Week 2</b> Session 2 9/5/2023	Derek Thompson – <i>The- Everything is Weird Economy</i> <a href="#">The Three Biggest Mysteries About the U.S. Economy - The Atlantic</a> U.S. Economy Today- Impact on Cities Paul Krugman What’s the Matter with Miami <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/03/opinion/columnists/miami-finance-new-york.html?referringSource=articleShare">https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/03/opinion/columnists/miami-finance-new-york.html?referringSource=articleShare</a> Paul Krugman Wonking Out: Jerome Powell, Mind Controller? <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/18/opinion/inflation-federal-reserve.html?referringSource=articleShare">https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/18/opinion/inflation-federal-reserve.html?referringSource=articleShare</a>	
<b>Week 3</b> Session 3 9/12/2023	Mallach, Preface & Introduction <i>The Rise and Fall of the American Industrial City</i> Mallach <i>Shifting Demographics</i> Mallach Richard Florida and Joel Kotkin- <i>America’s Post Pandemic Geography</i>	Pages 13-32 Pages 33-48
<b>Week 4</b> Session 4	City Revival Richard Florida, <i>Cities and The Creative Class</i> Eds & Meds	

9/19/2023	Mallach	Pages 49-73
<b>Week 5</b> Session 5 9/26/2023	Urban Crisis Richard Florida, <i>The Roots of the New Urban Crisis</i> Race, Poverty, Real Estate Mallach Oscar Lewis, <i>The Culture of Poverty</i>	Pages 74-96
<b>Week 6</b> Session 6 10/3/2023	Class Debate- Paper Due Poverty- Policy Kurtis Lee , <a href="#">Guaranteed Income Programs Spring Up City by City - The New York Times (nytimes.com)</a>	
<b>Week 7</b> Session 7 10/10/2023	Power and Politics Mallach Empty Houses and Distressed Neighborhoods: Confronting the Challenge of Place Mallach	Pages 235- 236? 173-205
<b>Week 8</b> Session 8 10/17/2023	<b>MIDTERM</b>	
<b>Week 9</b> Session 9 10/ 24/2023	Class Debate Gentrification and Its Discontents Mallach Jobs and Education Mallach	Pages 97-123 Pages 203-235
<b>Week 10</b> Session 10 10/31/2023	William Fulton <a href="#">6 post-pandemic predictions about how cities will be different going forward   Kinder Institute for Urban Research   Rice University</a> Post Pandemic Predictions	
<b>Week 11</b> Session 11	Joanne Kim and Tracy Hadden Loh , <i>What the recovery from the Great Recession reveals about post-pandemic work and cities</i>	

11/7/2023	Post Covid Richard Florida <sup>1</sup> Andrés Rodríguez-, and Michael Storper, <i>Critical Commentary: Cities in a post-COVID world</i> <a href="https://www.sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav?doi=10.1177/0891246421103111">Critical Commentary: Cities in a post-COVID world (sagepub.com)</a>	
<b>Week 12</b> Session 12 11/14/2023 <b>ZOOM</b>	Changes in Cities Tim Sablik, <i>Has the Pandemic Changed Cities Forever?</i> <a href="https://www.richmondfed.org/news-events/has-the-pandemic-changed-cities-forever">Has the Pandemic Changed Cities Forever?   Richmond Fed</a> Return to Office Scott Fulford <i>Return to office? How COVID-19 and remote work reshaped the economy.</i>	
<b>Week 13</b> Session 13 11/21/2023 <b>ZOOM</b>	Douglas S. Noonan PhD & Paul H. O'Neill, <i>ArtsCultureContribEconRecovery-TechnicalReport.pdf (nasaa-arts.org)</i> <a href="https://www.nasaa-arts.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ArtsCultureContribEconRecovery-TechnicalReport.pdf">ArtsCultureContribEconRecovery-TechnicalReport.pdf (nasaa-arts.org)</a>	
<b>Week 14</b> Session 14 11/28/2023 <b>ZOOM</b>	Sustainability, Inclusion and Change	
<b>Week 15</b> Session 15 12/05/2023	Class Wrap Up	
<b>FINALS WEEK</b>		

