College of Sciences

POS 4142 – Metropolitan Politics – (Course number 19805)

Professor: Joseph Durso, MPS, MPA	**Semester:** Spring 2020 **Room:** Bldg. CB1 - Room 103 **Time:** Monday / Wednesday 3:00PM- 4:15 PM
Office: Howard Phillips Hall 102 **Hours:** By appointment	**Phone:** 407-722-1155 **E-mail:** Joseph.Durso@ucf.edu
Course Text(s): The following is/are the required text(s)/readings for the course: • Levine, Myron A. (2015). **Urban Politics: Cities and Suburbs in a Global Age**. 9th edition. New York, N.Y.: Routledge Publishing. **ISBN 978-0-7656-4625-5** • Other materials will be provided to you as needed at no cost to you.	

Course Description

This class provides an overview of the political and public policy process at a more local level, its nature and the various roles it, and public administration, perform in society. Consideration is given to purposes public policy might serve and functions public administration performs to improve and enhance the public's health, safety, and well-being.

Core Competencies

The course addresses all of the common curriculum competencies of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA).

1. The ability to lead and manage in public governance;
2. The ability to participate in and contribute to the policy process;
3. The ability to analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make decisions;
4. The ability to articulate and apply a public service perspective;
5. The ability to communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.

Course Objectives

At the end of the semester, students will possess a working knowledge of policy adoption and implementation, and policy analysis. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Define and critically analyze policy issues and problems, articulate relevant decision-making criteria for policy analysis, and evaluate alternative policy solutions
- Identify the policy system, process, and key actors
- Learn how to carry out the steps in performing a policy analysis
- Become proficient at analyzing, writing, and presenting policy analysis recommendations
- Identify, collect, interpret, and evaluate policy-relevant information

Course Requirements

Assignments

Introduction Post: Students will prepare a post introducing themselves to the class, including a discussion of their background, hometown, major and why they are interested in taking this course. You will need to type this information in the **discussion board in Week 1 to fulfill Financial Aid requirements.** Due by **Friday at 11:59 p.m. of Week 1.**

Discussion Participation (30%): Participation in the online discussion is expected for class sessions and have a significant impact on your final grade. **I expect a minimum of three substantive discussion comments per week (one from you and two responses to your classmates).** I will expect a response ranging from 150-200 words (unless noted). Reflections are to be structured as YOU like and are meant to provide you with an avenue to further explore ways to identify, understand, analyze and address political and public policy issues in your own thoughtful way. **Posts are due by 11:59 p.m. EST at the end of each week (SUNDAY @ 11:59 p.m. EST)**

If you miss MORE than TWO (2) weeks of posts (so, yes 3 and over), the extra credit opportunity will not be accepted. No late posts will be accepted.

Examinations

Midterm Exam (20%): For the midterm exam, students are responsible for all subject matter covered during the lectures and in the assigned readings up to the point of the exam. Make-up exams will be permitted only in cases where a university excused absence is provided to the instructor. E-mail notices of illness without appropriate documentation of such illness will not constitute an acceptable excuse. The exam will consist of essay, fill-in, multiple-choice and true/false questions. The exam counts as 20% of your final grade. The exam will be administered on **February 19, 2020 during the regular class period**.

Final Exam (20%): The final exam will cover all subject matter presented over the whole semester up to the point of the final exam. Make-ups will be permitted only in cases where a university excused absence is provided to the instructor. E-mail notices of illness without appropriate documentation of such illness will not constitute an acceptable excuse. The exam will consist of essay, fill-in, multiple-choice and true/false questions. It will be administered **Wednesday, April 22, 2020 in our classroom from 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM.**

Required Paper

Memo Proposal (10%): Students will submit a one page typed double-spaced paper (including preliminary bibliography on a separate page) outlining their proposed memo topic. Memo topics may be any subject of interest to the student that is public policy related and is approved by the instructor. It will be due by **Sunday at 11:59 p.m. EST of Week 5.**

Memo (20%): Students will prepare and submit a memorandum no more than two double-spaced pages in length on a subject related to public policy. The page length is for the text of the memo only and does not include references. Memos will be evaluated primarily on the strength of analytic or conceptual insights and recommendations. At a minimum there must be a problem, a data component; analysis and a proposed solution.

Memos must follow a conventional memo format; they must be well organized and must not contain excessive typographical or grammatical errors. Memos and all other written assignments must be prepared in accordance with academic honesty provisions (see below) and the APA Publication Manual. These provisions most especially pertain to all direct quotes, citations and references, except a "running head," abstract, or table of contents is not required for this assignment.

Students can review writing and APA style guidelines at the school website http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/pubadm/. Under the tab Student Resources, click on "Writing/APA style." At this site you will find links to information on APA editing techniques, rules in writing, basics of APA style, the APA website, and very importantly, a link to the UCF Writing Center. The memo will be due by **Sunday at 11:59 EST of Week 9.**

Extra Credit

You can earn a total of 5% extra credit throughout the semester. It will require attending or watching an approved event relating to public policy and writing a 200-word reflection on how it relates to public policy. The last day that it will be accepted is **Sunday at 11:59 p.m. EST of Week 8.**

Financial Aid Attendance Requirement

All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. **Completing the Introductory Post by typing the information on the discussion board in Week 1 will meet this requirement and document that you began this course** will meet this requirement and document that you began this course. These assignments must be completed online by the end of the first week. Failure to will cause a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Other Class Policies

Late Work and Make-Up Exams: No make-up participation points, assignments or exams will be allowed without a student having received prior permission from the instructor, and/or without a written university approved excuse. Missed quizzes or exams for which the student has an approved excuse must be made up within three days of the original quiz or exam date. No make-ups will be permitted once grades have been posted and/or assignments have been returned. Students are responsible for making any necessary arrangements with the instructor to complete outstanding course requirements within the prescribed time frames.

Evaluation and Grading:
To summarize, the grading for the course breaks down as follows and is based on a 100-point scale:

- Participation in Weekly Discussions: 30%
- Memo Proposal: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Memo 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

Letter Breakdown:

A	92.5-100%
A-	90-92.49%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%
D	63-66.99%
D-	60-62.99%
F	59.99% or below

E-mail

As a general rule, I try to give responses within 24 hours:

- *Please Include "Subject" headings (e.g., Activity 1, Paper Grade) and class number (POS 4142).*
- *Be patient. I check e-mail several times a day during the week, and you can usually expect a response within 24 hours.*
- *Remember that e-mail communication does not have the face-to-face communication benefits of voice inflection, body language, etc. As a result, it is very easy for misunderstandings to occur with email.*

Online Decorum and Respect

I like to engage in discussions that are thought-provoking and are aimed to challenge students and to help everyone grow. I anticipate learning as much from you as you will from me. I expect everyone to respect their peers regardless of whether they agree or disagree with them. Personal attacks will not be tolerated on any medium or in any way throughout the semester.

Recording in Class

In short – it's not allowed. I expect students and guests alike in all my classes to be able to speak freely and honestly about the topics being discussed in class… Therefore…

THERE IS **NO RECORDING ALLOWED** IN CLASS OF ANY KIND WITHOUT THE EXPRESSED CONSENT OF BOTH THE PROFESSOR AND (WHEN APPLICABLE) THE GUEST.

The only exception to this rule is if a student asks for an accommodation in accordance with the guidelines set by student accessibility services office.

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Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topics Covered	Assignment
Week 1 (1/6)	Course Overview / Syllabus; What is Public Policy?	• Review Syllabus • Post in Discussion (Financial Aid Requirement)
Week 2 (1/13)	Power; Privatism; The Urban Situation	• Read Levine, Chapter 1 • Post in Discussion
Week 3 (1/20)	Growth and Decline of Cities; Corporate and Private Power;	• Read Levine, Chapter 2 • Post in Discussion
Week 4 (1/27)	Gentrification and Globalization	• Read Levine, Chapter 3 • Post in Discussion
Week 5 (2/3)	Decision Making; Economic Development; Regime Theory	• Read Levine, Chapter 4 • Post in Discussion • **MEMO PROPOSAL DUE**
Week 6 (2/10)	Dillon's Rule; Preemption; Home Rule; Finance; Leaders and Leadership	• Read Levine, Chapter 5 • Post in Discussion
Week 7 (2/17)	Political Machines and Reform **MIDTERM EXAM – Wednesday, 2/19/2020**	• Read Levine, Chapter 6 • NO DISCUSSION
Week 8 (2/24)	Citizen engagement and Participation; Community Organizing	• Read Levine, Chapter 7 • Post in Discussion • **EXTRA CREDIT DEADLINE**
Week 9 (3/2)	Municipal Services; Taxes; Vouchers; Schools; Measurement	• Read Levine, Chapter 8 • Post in Discussion • **MEMO DUE**
Week 10 (3/16)	Racial Stratification; Land Use; Smart Growth	• Read Levine, Chapter 9 • Post in Discussion
Week 11 (3/23)	Regional Governments; Coalitions; Annexation and Consolidation.	• Read Levine, Chapter 10 • Post in Discussion
Week 12 (3/30)	Cooperative and Fiscal Federalism; State and National Policy; Local Impacts	• Read Levine, Chapter 11 • Post in Discussion
Week 13 (4/6)	Sustainable Cities; Economic Development; The Global Age	• Read Levine, Chapter 12 • Post in Discussion
Week 14 (4/13)	Make Up Lecture(s)	• No Assignments
Week 15 (4/20)	**FINAL EXAM – Wednesday, 4/22/2020**	• **No Class Monday or Assignment this week**

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity http://academicintegrity.org. For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" http://wpacouncil.org/node/9.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating
Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade.

Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/ (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Writing/APA Style Assistance

Successful undergraduate work requires *reasonable proficiency in writing skills* (grammar, spelling, syntax, use of paragraphs and punctuation), as well as *proper documentation* of sources and citation of references (APA's most recent edition). Poor writing and use of APA will result in a lower grade on assignment. There are many references available for students on the School of Public Administration's website at:
https://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/publicadmin/student-resources/

Religious Observances or Military-Related Responsibilities

If you experience a scheduling conflict or need accommodation for religious observance or military-related responsibilities, give me a heads up and we'll make sure you get what you need. Please do so **BEFORE** the conflict arises. Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at:
http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf.

Notice of Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at: http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.2MakeUpAssignmentsorAuthUnivEventsorCocurricularActivities.pdf

UCF Creed

Integrity	I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
Scholarship	I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
Community	I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
Creativity	I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
Excellence	I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF (click on link from menu on left).

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to https://my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk).

Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to https://my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Disclaimer Statement:

Please note this is a tentative syllabus, and the instructor reserves the right to make any changes that may be necessary to meet the objectives of the course.