POS 4142 – Metropolitan Politics – (Course Section 20889)

Professor: Joseph Durso, MPS, MPA	**Semester:** Spring 2021 **Room:** PSY Room 108 **Time:** Tuesday / Thursday 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Course Modality**: P (Face to Face)
Office: Online for Social Distancing **Hours:** Virtual for social distancing	**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 3 credit-hour course provides an analysis of political patterns, processes, and issues in American Communities large and small. Through real world policies and situations, there is an in-depth look at intergovernmental relations, and structural and political arrangements in existing and emerging metropolitan areas.

The Purpose of this Course – Building YOUR 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 politics and public governance;
2. The ability to participate in and contribute to the political and 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 at the metropolitan level
- Become proficient at analyzing, writing, and presenting policy analysis / amendments
- Identify, collect, interpret, and evaluate policy-relevant information

Course Requirements

Discussions /Assignments

Introduction Post: Students will prepare a post introducing themselves to the class. It would be helpful if the intro included facts about your background, hometown, major, why you are interested in taking this course, and anything fun or interesting you want us to know. 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.**

Discussions / Participation (30%): Participation in online discussions is expected for class sessions and will have a significant impact on your final grade. Attendance will be taken in class and via Canvas discussion participation. **I expect a minimum of three substantive discussion comments per week (one from you and two responses)** although the length varies depending on each week's topic and guidelines**.** In weeks where I ask you to write a reflection instead of discussing class questions, I will expect a response ranging from 250-300 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. **There are 12 Discussions in the grading period, this portion will count as 30%** (approximately 2.5 percent each week) of your final grade. **Posts are due by SUNDAY @ 11:59 p.m. EST each week.** If you miss MORE than TWO (2) weeks of posts (so, yes 3 and over), the extra credit opportunity will not be accepted AND you will lose 10 percent of your overall grade. 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, multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and true/false questions. The exam counts as 20% of your final grade. The midterm exam will be **Thursday, February 25 in class.**

Final Exam (20%): The final exam will cover all subject matter presented after the mid-term and 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, multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and true/false questions. The final will be administered **Tuesday, May 4 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.** It will count as 20% of your final grade.

Required Paper

Memo Proposal (10%): Students will submit a one page typed single-spaced paper (including preliminary bibliography) outlining his/her 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 4.**

Memo (20%): Students will prepare and submit a memorandum of two single-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, an 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).

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 3% extra credit throughout the semester. It will require attending or watching an approved event relating to public policy and writing a 150-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.** Extra credit **cannot** apply to lost participation points.

Financial Aid Attendance Requirement

All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. **Completing the Introductory post in the discussion board in Week 1 will meet this requirement and document that you began this course**. This assignment 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:

- Introductory post: Included in your Discussion grade
- Attendance and Participation in Weekly Discussions: 30% (30 points)
- Memo Proposal: 10% (10 points)
- Midterm Exam: 20% (20 questions, one point each)
- Memo 20% (20 points)
- Final Exam: 20% (20 questions, one point each)

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, Monday thru Friday:

- *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.*
- *If you would like to schedule a FaceTime or WhatsApp session given some unforeseen need, don't hesitate to let me know and we can set up a meeting.*

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 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 UCF - Student Accessibility Services.

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Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topics Covered	Assignment
Week 1 (1/11)	Course Overview / Syllabus; Metropolitan government and public policy.	• Review Syllabus • Post in Discussion (Financial Aid Requirement)
Week 2 (1/18)	Power; Privatism; The Urban Situation	• Read Levine, Chapter 1 • Post in Discussion
Week 3 (1/25)	Growth and Decline of Cities; Corporate and Private Power	• Read Levine, Chapter 2 • Post in Discussion
Week 4 (2/1)	Gentrification and Globalization	• Read Levine, Chapter 3 • Post in Discussion • MEMO PROPOSAL DUE
Week 5 (2/8)	Decision Making; Economic Development; Regime Theory	• Read Levine, Chapter 4 • Post in Discussion
Week 6 (2/15)	Dillon's Rule; Preemption; Home Rule; Finance; Leaders and Leadership	• Read Levine, Chapter 5 • Post in Discussion
Week 7 (2/22)	Political Machines and Reform MIDTERM EXAM – 2/25	• Read Levine, Chapter 6 • NO DISCUSSION THIS WEEK • Midterm Exam covers content is Weeks 1-7
Week 8 (3/1)	Citizen engagement and Participation; Community Organizing	• Read Levine, Chapter 7 • Post in Discussion • EXTRA CREDIT DEADLINE
Week 9 (3/8)	Municipal Services; Taxes; Vouchers; Schools; Measurement	• Read Levine, Chapter 8 • Post in Discussion • MEMO DUE
Week 10 (3/15)	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES	
Week 11 (3/22)	Racial Stratification; Land Use; Smart Growth	• Read Levine, Chapter 9 • Post in Discussion
Week 12 (3/29)	Regional Governments; Coalitions; Annexation and Consolidation.	• Read Levine, Chapter 10 • Post in Discussion
Week 13 (4/5)	Cooperative and Fiscal Federalism; State and National Policy; Local Impacts	• Read Levine, Chapter 11 • Post in Discussion
Week 14 (4/12)	Sustainable Cities; Economic Development; The Global Age	• Read Levine, Chapter 12 • Post in Discussion
Week 15 (4/19)	The Presidency	• NO LECTURE / DISCUSSION – FINAL REVIEW
Week 16/17 (4/26 – 5/4)	FINAL EXAM - May 4th, 1:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. No class on 4/27 – University Study Day	• Final Exam Review • Final Exam Covers Weeks 8-13

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.

Ethical Principles & Professional Principles

We advocate the following ethical principles of conduct as the foundation of public service:

- **Integrity** – to serve in an honest, transparent manner while honoring promises;
- **Benevolence** – to promote the public good, avoid doing harm, and respect the worth of each individual;
- **Fairness –** to act in way that is just and equitable to all, while avoiding undue burden on the most vulnerable in our society; and
- **Social Justice** – to identify and address the unfair burdens experienced by groups of individuals through intentional and unintentional policies, laws, and societal projects and practices.

We advocate the following professional principles to advance public service as a profession:

- **Commitment** – to pursue a passion for the public interest with accountability and transparency;
- **Competence** – to utilize the most current knowledge, skills, and abilities to serve the public interest with efficiency and objectivity;
- **Scholarship** – to cherish and honor learning that enriches the human experience;
- **Stewardship** – to accept responsibility for decisions and actions regarding the protection of public resources;
- **Diversity and Inclusiveness –** to respect and value all perspectives and experiences, creating an environment that is open to all; and
- **Leadership –** to inspire others to advance the public interest while actively promoting democratic participation and collaboration**.**

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.