1. Administrative Information

Instructor: Professor Cathy Yang Liu  
Time: Thursdays 1 – 3:30 p.m.  
Location: AYSPS G51  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m. or by appointment  
Office: AYSPS 329  
Email: cyliu@gsu.edu  
Phone: (404) 413-0102

2. Course Overview

This special topics course offers an overview of core literature of the various topics in urban development. Students entering the course should be prepared to undertake a high level of individual reading and self-study across the breadth of the field of urban development and in specialized areas of their own interest. Students will also undertake written and oral reviews, critiques, and discussions of questions and key literature in the urban development field.

The course is designed around the concept of learning by doing. The first step in doing research is developing the research plan or proposal. Therefore, the major task for the student will be to produce a research proposal. The class will be part lecture/seminar and part workshop. About half of the class time will be devoted to discussion of theories and frameworks in urban development and the elements and techniques of urban research; the other half will be used to provide assistance on individual student research projects and to discuss the practical aspects of academic research. Students will share proposal drafts, present work in progress, and provide constructive review of one another’s work. Students will also make a formal presentation based on their research proposal.

The goal of the class is to prepare the doctoral and research-oriented master’s students in the Planning and Economic Development concentration for the comprehensive examination in this
field and develop their research proposals. Students will also be exposed to funding opportunities, conferences, data sources, journals, and other resources in this field.

3. Course Objectives

This course requires extensive reading, analytic writing, and class debate. Students finishing the course should be expected to:

(1) Have an improved understanding across the breadth of the classical and contemporary literature, theories, and debates in urban development policy and issues;

(2) Have an improved understanding of the literature, theories and debates in one or more areas of self-defined specialty interest in urban development policy in urban and regional settings. Potential topics include education, health, urban governance, public finance, as well as urban issues from a comparative perspective.

(3) Have developed sharpened skills in individually identifying, assessing and critiquing literature and policy arguments in the urban development field and be prepared to answer related questions;

(4) Have developed a research proposal that is grounded in theory and literature, and with a clear research question, sound research strategy and realistic research plan.

4. Course Materials

All assigned readings can be obtained electronically through GSU library.

Additional sources to check:

Urban Studies
Journal of Urban Affairs
Economic Development Quarterly
Journal of Planning Education and Research
Journal of the American Planning Association
Regional Science and Urban Economics
Journal of Urban Economics
Housing Policy Debate
Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research

Brookings Institute Metropolitan Policy Program
The Urban Institute
Department of Housing and Urban Development

5. Grading

The point breakdown for your performance in this course is as follows:

- Research Proposal Draft 1: 15%
- Research Proposal Draft 2: 15%
- Memos on readings (2): 20%
- Final Research Proposal: 30%
- Class Participation: 10%

6. Course Policies

1. Please advise the instructor if you have a documented disability that needs to be accommodated and provide documentation from GSU Disability Services.
2. All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to GSU’s Policy on Academic Honesty.
3. The University has very specific policies on Dropping Classes and Voluntary Withdrawal from courses, with possible penalties for withdrawals after the first two weeks of courses. For the only exception to this policy, see the Hardship Withdrawal information on the Dean of Students web site.
4. This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
5. Turn off cell phones and keep them off the desk during lectures. Text messaging during class is strictly prohibited and grounds for dismissal.
6. Final grades will not be posted or given out over the phone or via email.

It is very important that you adhere to academic honesty; plagiarism is prohibited. Please contact the instructor if in doubt.
6. Course Schedule

January 17  Course Introduction and Overview

No readings required
Be prepared to talk about your research interests and potential dissertation topics.

January 24  The Economic Role of Cities


January 31  Sprawl and Urban Growth


February 7  Economic Development Policy and Evaluation


**February 14**  *Research Proposal 1st Draft Due and Presentation*

**February 21**  *Urban Transportation and Land Use*


**February 28**  *Urban Housing Market and Neighborhood*


**March 7  Urban Labor Market and Workforce Development**


**March 14  Poverty, the Inner City, and Community Development**


Spatial Mismatch literature

**March 21  Spring Break – No Class**
March 28  Research Proposal 2nd Draft Due and Presentation

April 4  Immigration, Migration and Demographic Change


William Frey, Brookings Reports.

April 11  Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development


**April 18**  
Creativity, Innovation and Economic Development


**April 25**  
*Final Research Proposal Presentation*

**May 2**  
*Final Research Proposal Due by 5 p.m.*