Urban Studies 453
Metropolitan Growth and Poverty
Spring 2008

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Office Hours: M 4-5:30
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Description: This course analyzes the role of metropolitan regions in the U.S. and global economies, including the sources of metropolitan productivity, the ways that metropolitan structures affect residents, and analyses of public policy in metropolitan areas. The economic, political, and social forces that have shaped post World War II urban and regional development are explored, including technology, demography, and government. Special attention is paid to how metropolitan change affects residents by income and race. Topics include: gentrification, schools, suburbanization, sprawl, metropolitan fragmentation, concentration of poverty, race, and various economic revitalization initiatives.

Textbooks:

Additional readings are available for download from the course website, https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/. The website is a secure site. To access the site, you must use your Penn ID and password. I will be using email occasionally to contact you. The “communication” folder at the course website shows the email address which the registrar has for you and which I will use. It is your responsibility to change your email address if the one listed is not one that you regularly check.

Evaluation: There will be a midterm examination, a final examination, and a series of data-based short papers that will be accumulated into a final paper, each counting for 33% of the final grade. Class participation will be used to resolve any “borderline” cases for the course grade.

Three short papers describing a major U.S. metropolitan area’s central city and suburbs between 1970 and 2000, based primarily on original data analysis of U.S. Census data, will be written over the semester, and then accumulated and summarized into a final paper due on April 27. The census tract data that should be used in preparing these short papers are available as downloadable Excel files under the Course Documents link on the course website. A log dictionary is also available that describes all of the data fields.
COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Jan. 14-21

PART 1: METROPOLITAN GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

I. Introduction: Why Do Metropolitan Areas Exist?

O’Flaherty, Chapters 1, 2


Jan. 26-28

II. Where Do Metropolitan Areas Develop? Location Theory

O’Flaherty, Chapter 6
McDonald, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5


Satyajit Chatterjee "Agglomeration Economies: The Spark That Ignites a City?" 2003


Feb. 2, 4

III. Suburbanization and Sprawl: An Assessment

O’Flaherty, Chapter 7
McDonald, Chapter 6


Gordon, Peter, Richardson, Harry W., PROVE IT, Brookings Review, Fall 1998, Vol. 16, Issue 4


Feb. 9-11

Short paper due Feb. 9: Prepare a 3-5 page paper (including tables and/or maps) describing the population shifts that occurred in the metro area of your selection.

IV. Government Fragmentation

O’Flaherty, Chapter 8


**PART 2: EFFECTS OF METROPOLITAN AREA ON RESIDENTS**

*Feb. 16-18*

V. Race and Segregation

O’Flaherty, Chapter 11  
McDonald, Chapter 7, 8, 9


*Feb. 23-25*

VI Poverty and Concentration

O’Flaherty, Chapter 14  
McDonald, Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13


**MIDTERM EXAM MARCH 4**
Mar. 16-18

**Short paper due Mar. 18:** Prepare a 3-5 page paper (including tables and/or maps) describing the concentration of race and poverty in the central city and suburbs of the metro area of your selection.

VII. Transportation

O'Flaherty, Chapters 3, 4, 5


Mar. 23

VIII. Crime

O'Flaherty, Chapter 16, 17


Mar. 25

IX. Does Neighborhood Matter?


**PART 3: METROPOLITAN PUBLIC POLICY**

Mar. 30

X. Housing Policy

O'Flaherty, Chapters 17, 18


April 1

**Short paper due Apr 1: Prepare a 3-5 page paper (including tables and/or maps) describing housing age and vacancies in the central city and suburbs of the metro area of your selection.**

XI. Federal Policies


April 6-8

XII. Economic Development and Sprawl Strategies

McDonald, Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17

a. Public Investments in Infrastructure


B. Spatial Targeting


Tom Luce, “Tax Increment Financing in the Kansas City and St. Louis Metropolitan Areas” Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, The Brookings Institution, April 2003

April 13-15

C. Managing Growth

William Fulton, Jan Mazurek, Rick Pruetz, and Chris Williamson, “TDRs and Other Market-Based Land Mechanisms: How They Work and Their Role in Shaping Metropolitan Growth” Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, The Brookings Institution, June 2004


**Apr 20-22**

XIII. Poverty and Public Services


**April 27**

*Final paper due Apr 27: Put together prior short papers, explaining what can be learned from putting the data together from them in understanding metropolitan growth and poverty in the metro area of your selection.*

XIV. Schools

O’Flaherty, Chapter 10


**FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 7, 9-11 am.**