Course Description and Objectives
This course is as an introduction urban administration. We will discuss the political, legal, and managerial principles that drive the development and implementation of urban policy in American cities. We will rely on scholarly writing and news coverage of current events to examine in some detail the actors, institutions, and complex relationships that define the subject. As many of these concepts are illuminated by local events, we will focus on the City and County of San Diego where possible. Together we will consider several topics, including direct democracy; redistricting; race, class, and ethnicity; suburbanization and sprawl; regional governance; policing and public safety; education; economic development and growth; and the ongoing financial crisis. Upon completion of the course, students will have a broader view of:

- The complex legal, political, and organizational environments that shape urban policy and its implementation
- Various theoretical principles that shape academic and practical inquiries into issues of urban administration
- The role that race, class, and nationality play in the operation of urban governance
- Several current issues critical to the administration of policy in urban America and in San Diego

Course Material
ISBN: 9780205032464

ISBN: 1568026862

ISBN: 9780804756037

15 scantron Form No. 882-E (11” x 4” – Green). Please bring a scantron sheet and a No. 2 pencil to every class. If you do not have the appropriate material, you will not be able to sit for the quiz/exam.
Assignments and Grading

Graded materials for this course will consist of:

1. **Quizzes**  
   30% of final grade  
   Beginning in Week 2 (January 24), there will be several unannounced quizzes that will be given during class. The quizzes will for the most part be multiple choice and will examine students’ knowledge and understanding of the day’s assigned reading.

2. **Midterm Exam**  
   30% of final grade  
   The midterm exam is scheduled for Thursday, March 15th. The multiple-choice exam will cover the material from the course’s first 8 weeks (both assigned reading and lectures). The exam will be closed book.

3. **Comprehensive Final Exam**  
   40% of final grade  
   The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The final exam will be comprehensive, which means that everything that I have assigned to read and everything we discuss in class is fair game for the exam. Like the midterm, the final exam will be multiple choice and closed book.

**Grading Scale**

- 93-100 = A  
- 90-92 = A-  
- 87-89 = B+  
- 83-86 = B  
- 80-82 = B-  
- 77-79 = C+  
- 73-76 = C  
- 70-72 = C-  
- 67-69 = D+  
- 63-66 = D  
- 60-62 = D-  
- Below 60 = F

**Protocol**

**Classroom decorum:** Should you choose to come to class, please plan on listening and participating, when appropriate. Please silence your cell phones during class and do your best to avoid texting, reading the newspaper, talking to your neighbors, etc. These kinds of things are distracting and get in the way of a productive learning environment. Please also do your best to arrive on time and avoid walking out of class until we are done for the day.

**Professor contact:** I will do my best to respond in a timely way to all reasonable emails, but cannot respond to inquiries made right before class, late at night, etc. I will not conduct ‘virtual office hours’ nor discuss class materials in detail over email. Please try to see me during scheduled office hours or make an appointment.

**Plagiarism and cheating:** Please (please!) do not plagiarize or cheat. If I catch you doing so, you will fail the assignment and I will report the incident to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. By this point in your academic careers, there should be no ambiguity as to what constitutes either cheating or plagiarism. If you have any questions, please refer to SDSU’s definition of plagiarism here ([http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/htc/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/htc/plagiarism.pdf)) and see me to discuss in detail.
Course Schedule
Unless included in assigned books, all readings are available via the course Blackboard site. I reserve the right to alter the course schedule and content to fit evolving circumstances in the class.

Week 1 – Introduction
  • Thurs Jan 19 – Syllabus, etc.
    o No assigned reading

Week 2 – An Introduction to Urban America and San Diego
  • Tues Jan 24 – The State of Urban America
    o JS, Chapter 1: Introduction
  • Thurs Jan 26 – The State of San Diego
    o Erie, Chapter 1 – “America’s Finest City”
    o Aguilera and Weisberg – “Last decade of growth in county was slowest ever”

Week 3 – Race and Ethnicity
  • Tues Jan 31 – Race and Ethnicity in Urban America
    o Pelissero, Chapter 4 – “Urban Racial and Ethnic Politics”
  • Movie screening: Streetfight (2005)
    o Please be on time and expect to stay a few minutes late, if possible.
  • Thurs Feb 2 – Race and Redistricting in San Diego
    o Kyle – “Racial Diversity’s Impact on San Diego Politics”
    o Kogan – “The Politics of San Diego Redistricting”
    o Florido – “What SD’s New Political Lines Would Look Like”
    o KPBS – “Drafting New District Lines In San Diego” (Audio link via BB)

Week 4 – Voting, Direct Democracy, and Legislative Representation
  • Tues Feb 7 – The City Council
    o Pelissero, Chap 7 – “City Councils”
    o Dillon – “Everyone Likes Tony Young”
    o Gustafson – “Republicans Seek Majority on San Diego Council”
  • Guest speaker?
  • Thurs Feb 9 – Direct Democracy
    o Donovan and Bowler – “An Overview of Direct Democracy in the American States”
    o Williams – “Calif. Marks 100 Years Since Political Reforms”
    o Lin – “Corporations, Wealthy Dominate Initiative Process”
    o Fishkin – “How to Fix California’s Democracy Crisis”
Week 5 – Mayors, City Managers, and the Executive Branch

- **Tues Feb 14** – The Mayor
  - Pelissero, Chap 6 – “Mayoral Politics”
  - Gustafson – “Should S.D. Keep Strong-Mayor System?”
  - Dillon – “The Mayor’s Last Year”
  - Dillon – “Four Big Questions in the Mayor’s Race”

- **Thurs Feb 16** – The City Manager
  - Pelissero, Chapter 8 – “City Managers and the Urban Bureaucracy”
  - Additional materials TBA

- Guest speaker?

Week 6 - Federalism

- **Tues Feb 21** – “Judicial” Federalism and Medical Marijuana
  - Pelissero, Chap 2 – “The Intergovernmental Environment”
  - Wood – “Confusion reigns over medical marijuana as states and Feds clash”
  - Cadelago – “San Diego approves sweeping medical pot limits”
  - Cadelago and Moran – “62% of marijuana outlets shut down”
  - *Frontline*: The Pot Republic (Linked via BB)

- **Thurs Feb 23** – “Fiscal” Federalism, Prison Overcrowding, and Federal Mandates
  - Posner – “Mandates: The Politics of Coercive Federalism”
  - Coyle – “Triggering sharp dissents, Court rules California must reduce prison population”
  - Robinson – “The Great Uncrowding”
  - Gardner – “Sheriff Gore balks at prisoner shift”

Week 7 – The Suburbs

- **Tues Feb 28** – Growth and Change in the Suburbs
  - JS, Chapter 6: City/Suburban Divide
  - Dougherty – “The End of White Flight”
  - Tavernise – “Outside Cleveland, Snapshots of Poverty’s Surge in the Suburbs”

- **Thurs Mar 1** – Enclave Politics in San Diego and Beyond
  - JS – Chapter 10: Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis
  - Florido – “How Segregation Defined San Diego’s Neighborhoods”
  - Florido – “Feeling a Different Pulse in the Heart of Black San Diego”

- Guest speaker?
Week 8 – Urban Sprawl and Regionalism

- **Tues Mar 6 – Urban Sprawl**
  - JS – Chapter 11: Governing the Fragmented Metropolis
  - Leinberger – “The Next Slum?”
  - Renn – “Back to the City?”

- **Thurs Mar 8 – Sandag and Regional Governance in San Diego**
  - Sandag FAQ
  - Legislative Analysts’s Office – “SANDAG: An Assessment of Its Role in the San Diego Region”
  - Jaffe – “A Fight for the Future of San Diego”

- **Guest speaker?**

Week 9 - MIDTERM

- **Tues Mar 13 – NO CLASS**
- **Thurs Mar 15 – Midterm Examination**

Week 10 – Finance and Budgeting

- **Tues Mar 20 – Municipal Finance in Urban America**
  - JS, Chapter 12 – “The Metropolitan Chase”
  - Posner – “Braving Twin Deficits”
  - Malveaux – “Broke cities should awaken nation”

- **Thurs Mar 22 – Budget Woes in San Diego**
  - Erie, Chapter 4 – “Paradise Impoverished”
  - Dillon – “Pension Reform – A Reader’s Guide”
  - Dillon – “For San Diego's Broken Roads, Broken Promises Too”

- **Guest speaker?**

Week 11 – NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

Week 12 – Education

- **Tues Apr 3 – The Challenge of Public Education**
  - Pelissero, Chapter 12 – “The New Politics of Urban Schools”
  - Medina – “Next Question: Can Students Be Paid to Excel?”

- **Movie screening: The Lottery (2010)**
  - *Please be on time and expect to stay a few minutes late, if possible.*
Week 12, con’t.
- **Thurs Apr 5** – Public Education in San Diego
  - Bassok and Raymond – “Chapter 15: Performance Trends and the Blueprint for Student Success”
  - Kowba – “New Cuts Could Push San Diego Schools to Insolvency”
  - Winerip – “For San Diego Schools, a Fear That Larger Classes Will Hinder Learning”
  - Dillon – “Dumanis Wants Mayor to Have Big Role in Schools”

Week 13 – Urban Service Delivery
- **Tues Apr 10** – Efficient Service Delivery
  - Pelissero, Chapter 11 – “Urban Services”
  - Schlick – “CompStat and the LAPD”
  - McDonald – “City looks at county’s outsourcing as a blueprint”
  - “Mayor Sanders calls for privatizing more city functions”

- **Thurs Apr 12** – Other Values Driving Service Delivery
  - Savas – “On Equity in Providing Public Services”
  - Baker and Goldstein – “Police Tactic: Keeping Crime Reports Off the Books”
  - Taibbi – “How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the OWS Protests”

Week 14 – Law Enforcement and Security
- **Tues Apr 17** – Policing Urban Crime
  - Weisburd and Eck – “What Can Police Do to Reduce Crime, Disorder, and Fear?”
  - Kyle – “Understanding San Diego’s Crime Drop”
  - Kyle – “San Diego Police’s New Identity”

- Guest speaker?

- **Thurs Apr 19** – Deliberative Democracy and Crime Control
  - Rosen – “Prisoners of Parole”

***Extra credit movie screening: The Interrupters (2011)***
- Thursday, Apr 19: 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
- Room TBA
- Students will be asked to draft a 1-2 page memo in response to several movie-related discussion questions. The memo will be worth a maximum of 5 points.
Week 15 – Economic Development

- **Tues Apr 24** – Economic Development Policy Proposals
  - Pelissero, Chapter 10 – “Economic Development Policies”
  - Berg – “Why Do Some Neighborhoods Get Overrun with Chain Stores, While Others Don’t?”
  - Zimmerman – “The Folly of Corporate Relocation Incentives”
  - Goodman – “Radical Renewal”

- **Thurs Apr 26** – “Downtown” Development
  - JS, Chapter 13 – “Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center”
  - Donohue – “What Redevelopment’s Death Means for San Diego”

- Guest speaker?

Week 16 – Alternative Views on Development in SD

- **Tues May 1** – Padres and Chargers: The ‘Pro’ Argument
  - Rosentraub – “Chapter 4: Shared Risk, Shared Return”
  - Markazi – “Qualcomm Just Doesn’t Cut It”
  - Lewis – “No. 12: The Chargers’ New Home (Top 12 in ’12)”
  - Hall – “Sanders, Chargers Closer to New Stadium Plan”

- **Thurs May 3** – Padres and Chargers: The ‘Con’ Argument
  - Erie, Chapter 6 – “Redevelopment, San Diego Style”
  - Lewis – “Let Us Invest in Chargers, Not Donate to Them”
  - Wilkening – “Footing the Bill for a Ballpark”

Week 17 – The Financial Collapse and the Future of San Diego

- **Tues May 8** – Moving Forward After the Crash
  - Erie, Chapter 8 – “Paradise Ungoverned”
  - Florida – “How the Crash Will Reshape America”

- **Thurs May 10** – NO CLASS

Week 18 – FINAL EXAM (Tuesday, May 15 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm)