COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The goal of the course is twofold: to provide students with an introduction to the political economy of metropolitan America and to evaluate the policy, managerial and financial implications of the choices of structural arrangements utilized to provide public services at the local level. The basic premise of the course is that a host of problems at the local level are not easily solved by a single local government. Many policy issues -- from pollution, to watersheds, to emergency management, to public transportation -- are regional in nature, and not easily or appropriately confined to a single governmental unit. Because of this, governments often must achieve policy objectives jointly. This has implications for policymaking, management, and finance in local governments.

This is an advanced elective for graduate students in the Department of Public Administration. As such, some basic knowledge about public administration will be assumed and the reading load will be heavy. It is thus imperative that you read the material thoroughly every week, and that you come prepared to discuss the nuanced details of those readings in class.

As an advanced elective, the course is NOT designed as a lecture-style class. Rather, you and your classmates will be responsible for a majority of the discussion in class. This “seminar style” can be very intellectually rewarding for the students, but only if everyone comes VERY well prepared to class. A superficial review of the readings in not enough – you will need to read and reread the material BEFORE class so that you can come prepared to discuss the finer points and details. The professor will ONLY be there to guide the discussion and provide clarity to the material as needed. The exam will be based on the assumption that the students fully and completely prepare for class each week, and participate in a lively and deep discussion of the issues. The professor will not “fill in the gap” if the discussion does not proceed because students assume they can let the other students do all the discussing. Successful completion of the course will require active participation and consistent attendance. If you know you will need to miss more than one of the regular weekly classes due to work or other obligations, you should not take this course.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

The Collaborative Public Manager: New Ideas for the Twenty-first Century
by Rosemary O’Leary and Lisa Blomgren Bingham
Georgetown University Press (2009)
ISBN-10: 1589012232

Metropolitan Government and Governance: Theoretical Perspectives, Empirical Analysis, and the Future
by G. Ross Stephen, Nelson Wikstrom
Oxford University Press (1999)
ISBN-10: 0195112989

City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America (9th Edition)
by Dennis R. Judd, Todd Swanstrom
Pearson (2015)
ISBN-10: 0-205-99639-6

City-County Consolidation and Its Alternatives: Reshaping the Local Government Landscape
Edited by: Jered B. Carr; Richard C. Feiock
M.E. Sharpe (2004)
ISBN-10: 978-0-7656-0941-0

Referred to in the rest of the syllabus as OLB
Referred to in the rest of the syllabus as S&W
Referred to in the rest of the syllabus as J&S
Referred to in the rest of the syllabus as C&F
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES:
Your grade will consist of three parts: weekly quizzes, one exam, and one research paper. Your overall grade will be determined as follows:

- Weekly Quizzes: 20 percent
- Exam: 40 percent
- Research Project: 40 percent

Each week, a quiz will be given at the start of class. The quiz will consist of one short essay question that will be based on the readings assigned that week. Thus, the quiz will be over NEW material, and is designed to encourage students to read every week. The quiz will be given at the start of class. No late quizzes or make-ups will be allowed. If you are late or absent, you will receive a zero for that quiz without exception. ONE quiz will be dropped from your weekly quiz average at the end of the term.

You should expect the exam to be comprehensive and to explore the material deeply. Superficial answers that do not show a deep understanding of the material will not be sufficient to earn a passing grade in this course. Any students who misses the exam must fully comply with university policy for an excused absence (proof of student illness or death of an immediate family member will be required) to be allowed to take a make-up exam.

Each student will be required to prepare a research paper of no less than 20 pages and no more than 25 pages (excluding bibliography, tables, figures, and appendices) that more deeply evaluates one of the topics covered in the course. For the PhD students taking this course, the paper must take the form of a research design. Students also will be required to make a research presentation. Additional details will be provided by the Professor later in the term. All papers will be required to submitted to www.turnitin.com to check for plagiarism, as well as in hard copy to the professor.

COURSE OUTLINE:

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>J&amp;S</th>
<th>S&amp;W</th>
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<td>Types of Goods, Regional Problems</td>
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<td>Examples of Consolidation</td>
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<td>The Public Administration Perspective: Managing in a Fragmented World</td>
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EXTRA READINGS:


POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM
Notice of this policy shall be given in all public administration classes each semester, and written copies shall be available in the public administration office.

Definitions
The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism “as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying other’s tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one’s own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.”

Penalties
Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of “F” in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the departmental faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, papers, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Curriculum and Degree Programs Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary course work may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Curriculum and Degree Programs Committee in the case of either graduate or undergraduate students. This committee, acting as an agent of the Department, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case.

Appeals
Students may appeal and decision under this policy by following the procedure laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

POLICY ON DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION
The Department of Public Administration, in cooperation with the Office of Disability Accommodation, complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request during regular office hours before the 12th class day of regular semesters (4th class day of summer sessions).

POLICY ON LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM
The classroom setting at an institution of higher learning is intended to serve as a venue that permits the transfer of knowledge and facilitates the sharing of ideas. As such, it is imperative that any distractions from these stated objectives be avoided and kept to a minimum. Potential disruptions include modern electronic devices such as laptop computers and cell phones.

Students are allowed to take notes on personal laptop computers to enhance the learning process, but they should not activate their internet browsers during class or use computers for non-academic purposes (as this diverts attention from the lecture/discussion for both the student using it and others nearby). Students should also avoid using cell phones to search the Internet or text while class is in session.

Exceptions to this policy will be at the discretion of the faculty only and may occur if searching the Internet is necessary to find additional information or facts related to the subject being covered on that particular day.

POLICY ON STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.