

## Course Syllabus

Class/Department : Department of Public Finance

Course Title: Topics in Urban Public Finance

Grade(應修系級) : Master degree students

Type:  Required  Selective                       Whole  Half

Credits: 2

Course Number: 2

Prerequisite Course: None

### **Course Description & Course Objective:**

Urban public finance is a subfield of public finance studying the central functions of city governments and how they are financed. This course will be based on Edward Glaeser's 2012 survey paper on urban public finance. Empirical studies along with theoretical foundations on several dimensions of urban finance will be introduced. Students and the instructors will review a list of selected papers together. Through literature reading and discussing, students are expected to be familiar with the development of urban studies and basic empirical research methods, and acquire the ability of critical analysis.

### **Course Outline: (including teaching schedule):**

Week	Topic
1	Class introduction
2	Literature overview
3	Literature overview
4	Urban political economy
5	Poverty & income distribution
6	Welfare & migration
7	Welfare & migration
8	Education & labor market
9	Education & labor market
10	Housing
11	Housing
12	Housing
13	Transportation & other urban services
14	Transportation & other urban services
15	Crime & public safety
16	Crime & public safety
17	Crime & public safety
18	Final report due

## **Overview**

Glaeser, Edward L. 2012. Urban Public Finance. *National Bureau of Economic Research Working paper* 18244.

Tiebout, Charles M. 1956. "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures." *Journal of Political Economy* 64(5): 416-424.

Glaeser, Edward L. 1998. Are Cities Dying?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 12: 139-160.

## **Urban Political Economy**

Ferreira, Fernando and Joseph Gyourko. 2009. "Do Political Parties Matter? Evidence from U.S. Cities." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124 (1): 399-422.

## **Poverty & Income Distribution**

Cutler, David, Edward Glaeser, and Jacob Vigdor. 1999. "The Rise and Decline of the American Ghetto," *Journal of Political Economy* 107 (3): 455-506.

Feldstein, Martin, and Marian Vaillant Wrobel. 1998. "Can State Taxes Redistribute Income?" *Journal of Public Economics* 68 (3): 369-396.

Young, Cristobal and Charles Varner. 2011. "Millionaire Migration and State Taxation of Top Incomes: Evidence from a Natural Experiment." *National Tax Journal* 64 (2, Part 1): 255-284.

## **Welfare & Migration**

Borjas, George J. 1999. "Immigration and Welfare Magnets." *Journal of Labor Economics* 17, (4): 607-637.

Levine, Phillip B., and David J. Zimmerman. 1999. "An empirical analysis of the welfare magnet debate using the NLSY." *Journal of Population Economics* 12, (3): 391-409.

Katz, Lawrence, Jeffrey Kling, and Jeffrey Liebman, "Moving to Opportunity in Boston: Early Results of a Randomized Mobility Experiment," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 116 (May 2001): 607-654.

## **Education & Labor Market**

Hoxby, Caroline M. 2000. "Does Competition among Public Schools Benefit Students and Taxpayers?" *American Economic Review* 90, (5): 1209-1238.

Rosenthal, Stuart S. and William C. Strange. 2008. "The Attenuation of Human Capital Spillovers." *Journal of Urban Economics* 64, (2): 373-389.

Glaeser, Edward L. and David C. Mare. 2001. "Cities and Skills." *Journal of Labor Economics* 19, (2): 316-342.

## **Housing**

Glaeser, Edward L. and Bruce Sacerdote. 2000. "The Social Consequences of Housing." *Journal of Housing Economics* 9, (1-2): 1-23. 57

Currie, Janet, and Aaron Yelowitz. 2000. "Are public housing projects good for kids?" *Journal of Public Economics* 75, (1): 99-124.

Glaeser, Edward L., and Joseph Gyourko. 2005. "Urban decline and durable housing." *The Journal of Political Economy* 113, (2): 345-375.

Glaeser, Edward L., Joseph Gyourko, and Raven Saks. 2005. "Why is Manhattan so Expensive? Regulation and the Rise in Housing Prices." *Journal of Law and Economics* 48, (2): 331-369.

**Transportation & Other Urban Services**

Baum-Snow, Nathaniel and Matthew E. Kahn. 2005. "Effects of Urban Rail Transit Expansions: Evidence from Sixteen Cities, 1970-2000." *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs* 147-197.

Glaeser, Edward L., Matthew E. Kahn, and Jordan Rappaport. 2008. "Why do the Poor Live in Cities? the Role of Public Transportation." *Journal of Urban Economics* 63, (1): 1-24.

**Crime & Public Safety**

Levitt, Steven D. 1997. "Using Electoral Cycles in Police Hiring to Estimate the Effect of Police on Crime." *American Economic Review* 87, (3): 270-290.

Levitt, Steven D. 2004. "Understanding Why Crime Fell in the 1990s: Four Factors that Explain the Decline and Six that do Not." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 18, (1): 163-190.

Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. 2005. *Freakonomics*.

Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. 2009. *Super Freakonomics*

學生核心能力權重：八項加總為 100，不需每項均得填寫，惟至少需填一項

Item	Creative thinking and Problem-solving 創意思考與問題解決	Comprehensive integration 綜合統整	Communication and Coordination 溝通協調	Team cooperation 團隊合作
Weight	30	20	20	
Item	Integrity and Upright 誠信正直	Respect and Reflection 尊重自省	Diverse care 多元關懷	Cross-border cooperation 跨界合作
Weight		10	10	10

Career Development:

Evaluation Methods:

Class discussion (40%), class presentation (30%), term paper (30%).

Required texts: None

Reference texts: None