Abstract: Many decisions about the distribution of economic resources and political power are made by local governments, which promulgate policies with direct effects on the everyday lives of citizens. This course examines several aspects of local government policies. We begin with an overview of some classic works in urban politics, which perhaps had its heyday in the 1960s. Next, we look at how local political institutions affect policy choices, citizen behavior, and electoral outcomes. We then look at patterns of residential development in cities and how those patterns reflect recurring cultural and ethnic conflicts. Because cities compete for economic development, we next study how cities choose policies to attract certain types of citizens and the macrolevel consequences of such motivations. Lastly, we look at the emergence of collective action in cities and how neighborhood associations both control the lives of individual citizens and become political players in their own right in the context of local governance.

Course Requirements

1. Three take-home exams (30% each for masters students, 20% each for Ph.d. students): Each instructor will teach for two weeks of the course. At the end of each two-week period, all students will receive a take-home examination that will be due at the beginning of class on the Monday after being handed out. The take home exams will ask a series of essay questions based on the readings.

2. Final research paper (Ph.d. students only, 30%): Topic of your choice, but must relate to themes and theories of the class. If you cannot gather data and test hypotheses, you should write a research design paper with explicit hypotheses and details about how you would go about testing them. If possible, you should write this paper with your dissertation in mind (e.g., a rough draft of a dissertation chapter, or a rough draft of your dissertation prospectus).

3. Class participation (10%): Show up, ask and answer questions. It is absolutely critical that you read the assigned readings BEFORE coming to class each time having taken notes and them so you are prepared to discuss them.

Of course university policies regarding academic honesty will be enforced. Those not familiar with these should consult the FSU Honor Code found on the Web at: http://www.fsu.edu/~union/honor.htm

Week 1: Classics in Urban Policy and Politics (Charles)
Dahl, *Who Governs?*
Peterson, *City Limits*

Week 2: Institutions and Local Governance (Charles)
Feiock, New book


**Week 3: The Political Economy of Place (Tom)**

**Monday, May 21: Tiebout’s theory of Location and what it means for Local Government**


**Ph.D. Students Only:**


**Optional Reading**


**Thursday, May 24: The Urban Growth Machine**


**Week Four: Suburbanization, Race, and the Political Economy of Place (Tom)**
Monday, May 28: The Development of Suburbs


Thursday, May 31: Race


Weeks 5: Collective Action and Neighborhood Associations I

Monday, June 4: Theoretical Perspectives on Collective Action


Thursday, June 7: Neighborhood Associations as Democracy in Action


Week 6: Collective Action and Neighborhood Associations II

Monday, June 11: Neighborhood Associations as Autocracy in Action


Thursday, June 14: Empirical Approaches to Neighborhood Associations

