**HOT TOPICS IN URBAN MANAGEMENT**

URBMA-GQ 1301

Spring 2016

Thursdays 12:30-3:15

Kimmel Room 803

Instructor: Kevin Cromar

Affiliation: Marron Institute of Urban Management

Email: kevin.cromar@nyu.edu

Lecturers: Paul Romer

Mark Kleiman

Kevin Cromar

Shlomo Angel

Alain Bertaud

**I. Course Description:**

Criminal justice; public and environmental health; drug policy; rapid urbanization; mobility; job creation: these are a few of the pressing challenges faced by cities around the globe. This new course, led by the principal scholars at the Marron Institute of Urban Management, will enable students to develop informed opinions about urban policy, to defend those opinions with good analysis, and to understand the logic behind differing opinions. Lecturers will include: economist Paul Romer, public policy scholar Mark Kleiman, environmental health scientist Kevin Cromar, and urban planners Shlomo Angel and Alain Bertaud.

**II. Reading Assignments:**

Weekly reading assignments will be assigned from textbooks, academic journals, government reports, and other sources of quality information. Reading questions will be regularly provided to help focus learning and help prepare students for participation in upcoming lectures. A full list of reading assignments can be found on the accompanying lecture description document.

**III. Grades**

Grading for the course will be based on the following rubric:

15% - Reading Assignments

25% - Written Policy Brief

30% - Midterm Exam

30% - Final Exam

Questions will accompany most of the reading assignments to help focus on and understand the main principles of the assigned readings. These questions will form the basis of class discussions. The goal of these assignments is to reinforce learning and provide opportunities for students to gauge their own understanding of key principles.

Completion of a policy brief will comprise 25% of your final grade. The grade for the research project will consist of three components: development of policy brief topic; completion of a written policy brief; and peer-editing of other students’ briefs. Students are free to develop their own topics or develop a topic under the guidance of the instructor. A short, written description of the research topic (approximately 250 words) will be required for approval from the instructor. The description should include the urban management issue of interest and a specific region or jurisdiction that is relevant for dissemination of the brief.

Your written brief will be approximately 2,000-2,500 words in length and represent a significant understanding of the selected topic. Students will have an opportunity to provide and receive peer-editing on their briefs prior to final submission. More information on the content and organization of the written assignment will be provided in class.

**IV. Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is expected. For questions regarding academic integrity feel free to consult with the instructor or review common guidelines at the following sites:

http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies/academic\_integrity

http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

**V. Tentative Course Schedule** (*may change to accommodate guest speakers & student needs*)

LECTURER TOPIC DATE OF CLASS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Paul Romer | How to Manage Millions of People | January 28 |
| Mark Kleiman | Crime and Punishment / Police Management | February 4 |
| Mark Kleiman | Dynamics of Deterrence | February 11 |
| Mark Kleiman | Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs | February 18 |
| Kevin Cromar | Urban Air Quality Management | February 25 |
| Kevin Cromar | Clean Water for All | March 3 |
| Kevin Cromar | Climate Resiliency in Cities | March 10 |
|  | *Spring Recess* | March 17 |
|  | MIDTERM EXAM | March 24 |
| Paul Romer | The Urbanization Project: Humanity’s Big Adventure | March 31 |
| Alain Bertaud | Cities as Labor Markets | April 7 |
| Alain Bertaud | Formation of Urban Spatial Structures | April 14 |
| Shlomo Angel | The Rise and Fall of Manhattan Densities | April 21 |
| Shlomo Angel | Managing Urban Expansion: Global Monitoring to Stakes in the Ground | April 28 |
| Alain Bertaud | Transportation Policy: Commuting and the Spatial Structure of Cities | May 5 |
|  | FINAL EXAM | May 12 |