Instructor: Dr. Shishir Mathur
Office location: WSQ 216E
Telephone: 408-310-7856
Email: shishir.mathur@sjsu.edu
Office hours: Thursday 6 pm to 7 pm and by appointment
Class days/time: Thursday 7:30 pm to 10 pm
Classroom: WSQ 111
Class website: URBP 250: https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1234574
URBP 150: https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1234626
Prerequisites: URBP 250: None
URBP 150: Upper division standing
Units: 4

Course Catalog Description
URBP 250: Investigation of both the theory and practice of local public finance with emphasis on applications relevant to urban and regional planning. Topics include: public goals and externalities; the function of the budget; sources of revenue and expenditure; the planning programming-budgetary system (PPBS); methods of project evaluation; and traditional as well as innovative methods of public finance including property tax, user fee, impact fee, tax increment financing, and use of special districts.

URBP 150: An introduction to the theory and practice of municipal finance. Topics include public goals and externalities, the function of the budget, sources of revenues, finance tools, expenditure types, the planning programming-budgetary system (PPBS), and methods of project evaluation.

Course Description and Course Learning Objectives
Do you wonder how we pay for our roads, schools, libraries, and other public infrastructure and facilities? What are some of the traditional as well as innovative tools for financing public facilities? How can the tools for financing such facilities impact urban development? How do we ensure that
the planning and the funding of facilities are coordinated? This course discusses these and such other questions/issues related with public financing of urban infrastructure and services.

Financing of public facilities for an urban area is a very dynamic and complex process. The complexity arises, in part, because of the diversity of organizations involved in the decision-making process. The process is political as well as technical in nature. Moreover, there is an ever-increasing competition for limited funds, especially during times of budgetary cutbacks. In this course we will first get introduced to the field of public finance with an overview of the government structure under which public financing works in the US. Next, we will discuss the normative theory of public finance. Thereafter, we will examine public finance at the local government-level. The discussion will include study of the major sources of expenditure and revenue, the budgeting process, and the exploration of the link between budgeting and planning. Next, we will review two important evaluation tools used in the field of public finance, namely, fiscal impact analysis and cost-benefit analysis. In the end, we will examine the traditional as well as the innovative public financing methods. These include property taxes, user fees, impact fees, tax increment financing, special districts, joint development, and land pooling and reconstitution.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the budgetary process of a local jurisdiction;
2. Identify linkages (or lack thereof) between a local jurisdiction’s budgeting and planning processes;
3. Understand the role of short- and long-term debt in financing public infrastructure and services;
4. Critically evaluate the impact of various public finance tools on urban development; and
5. Use program evaluation tools such as fiscal impact analysis and cost-benefit analysis

Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) Knowledge Components

This course partially covers the following PAB Knowledge Components: 3B and 3E.

3B) Governance and Participation: appreciation of the roles of officials, stakeholders, and community members in planned change.


Required Course Texts

Required Book:
Cost: Approximately $100 (purchase); $35 (rent)

Other readings are electronically available through San Jose State University’s new learning management system (LMS), Canvas by Instructure. A quick guide on how to access CANVAS is at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/CanvasStudentTutorial_Complete.pdf. I may also hand out a small number of additional articles in class, and at times may ask you to read material available on the web.
## Course Requirements and Assignments

Your grade for the course will be based on the following assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percent of Course Grade</th>
<th>Course Learning Objectives Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: One discussion and narrative per class</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: In-class discussion</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Engagement Unit Activity 1: Attend a Public Meeting and Write a Reflection Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 4: Engagement Unit Activity 2: Participate in One Role Playing Group with a Guest Lecturer and Write a Reflection Paper and a Synthesis Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 5: Draft Term Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 6: Final Term Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 7: Presentation of Term Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 8: Fiscal Impact Exercise</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 9: Cost-Benefit Exercise</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 10: Impact Fee Exercise</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

This class will be a combination of lecture by instructor, in-class discussion, and presentations by the guest speakers. You have to read the assigned material prior to attending that week’s class, and participate in the class discussion. Over the entire semester each student is required to contribute one question per class that s/he would like to see discussed in the class. Such questions may also include clarification of a concept/part of the reading. The question should be emailed to the instructor by Tuesday night before the class with the subject line “Name: Class ‘x’ Question,” where “x” stands for the week of the class.

In-class discussion requires participation but more importantly thoughtful participation. You will not be assessed on the amount of participation per se, but rather your contribution to the course learning objective and class discourse through insightful questions or comments.

Assignments 3 and 4 constitute the engagement unit. See the section titled “Course Workload” for a brief description of these assignments. Furthermore, you will have to write one term paper and present the findings of the paper to the class. In the term paper, you will write a memo discussing the linkages between a city’s general plan, capital improvement plan, and budgets. URBP 150 and URBP 250 will have separate writing requirements for the term paper. These requirements and detailed guidelines about writing the term paper will be provided later in the semester at the time the term paper assignment is introduced. Finally, you will complete three take-home exercises. They will help you conduct fiscal impact analysis, cost-benefit calculation, and impact fee calculation.
**Grading Information**

The course grade consists of 10 assignments (see above). If a student named “Joe” obtains 4 points on the first assignment, 5 on the second, 9 on the third, 14 on the fourth, 19 on the fifth, 7 on the sixth, 9 on the seventh, 10 on the eighth, and 5 on the ninth, and 5 on the tenth assignment, his final letter grade would be calculated using the following steps:

a) Add the score for each assignment to arrive at the final score for the course.
   Final score = 4+5+9+14+19+7+9+10+5+5 = 87

b) The following grading scheme converts the final score into a letter grade.
   A+ (96 and above); A (93 to 95); A- (90 to 92); B+ (87 to 89); B (84 to 86); B- (81 to 83); C+ (78 to 80); C (75 to 77); C- (72 to 74); D+ (69 to 71); D (66 to 68); D- (63 to 65); F (below 63)

c) Using the conversion scheme provided in step “b” the score of 87 for “Joe” equals a letter grade of “B+.”

**Other Grading and Assignment Issues**

Late work will not be accepted, except with the instructor’s prior permission.

**Course Workload**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Because this is a four-unit class, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week in addition to time spent in class and on scheduled tutorials or activities. Special projects or assignments may require additional work for the course. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. For this class, you will have to undertake additional activities outside the class hours such as attending public meetings related to financing of infrastructure and services; writing memos critically analyzing the issues discussed in these public meetings; providing peer responses to such memos written by fellow students; and revising your memo based upon the peer responses. Details on how to complete these activities will be provided on handouts distributed in class later in the semester.

**Classroom Protocol**

This class is primarily run as a seminar, with the goal to foster critical thinking in the complex world of urban public finance. As such, it is expected that students attend each class, be on time, complete the assigned readings prior to each class, and actively participate in discussions with an open mind. If you are unable to attend a class, please notify me in advance. Lectures by the instructor and/or guest experts will supplement the class discussions.

We live in a 24/7 connected world. However, I request that you refrain from texting, tweeting, surfing, and anything else that you can do on an electronic device unless it is for taking notes or for looking up information relevant to the discussion at hand. If you must connect for other reasons, I ask that you either wait until class break. Phones must be off or on silent mode.

San José State University

Urban and Regional Planning Department
University Policies
Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

Plagiarism and Citing Sources Properly
Plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense both in the university and in your professional work. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else's ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties and a record filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. In severe cases, students may also fail the course or even be expelled from the university.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to make sure you clarify the issues before you hand in draft or final work.

Learning when to cite a source and when not to is an art, not a science. However, here are some common examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- Using a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote without identifying the language as a quote by putting the text in quote marks and referencing the source.
- Paraphrasing somebody else's theory or idea without referencing the source.
- Using a picture or table from a webpage or book without referencing the source.
- Using data some other person or organization has collected without referencing the source.

The University of Indiana has developed a very helpful website with concrete examples about proper paraphrasing and quotation. See in particular the following pages:

- Overview of plagiarism at www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html
- Examples of plagiarism at www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html
- Plagiarism quiz at www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html

If you still have questions, feel free to talk to me personally. There is nothing wrong with asking for help, whereas even unintentional plagiarism is a serious offense.

Citation style
It is important to properly cite any references you use in your assignments. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning uses Kate Turabian’s A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th edition (University of Chicago Press, 2013, ISBN 780226816388). Copies are available in the SJSU King Library. Additionally, the book is relatively inexpensive, and you may wish to purchase a copy. Please note that Turabian’s book describes two systems for referencing...
materials: (1) “notes” (footnotes or endnotes), plus a corresponding bibliography, and (2) in-text parenthetical references, plus a corresponding reference list. The instructor prefers the latter.

**Library Liaison**

The SJSU Library Liaison for the Urban and Regional Planning Department is Ms. Toby Matoush. If you have questions, you can contact her at toby.matoush@sjsu.edu or 408-808-2096.

**URBP 250: URBAN PLANNING PUBLIC FINANCE**

**URBP 150: INTRODUCTION TO MUNICIPAL FINANCE**

**SPRING 2017**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

(subject to change with fair notice)

**Class 1 (January 26)**

*Course Overview*

**Class 2 (February 2)**

*Public Finance: The Local Government Structure*

**Reading:**


**Class 3 (February 9)**

*Public Finance: Theory*

**Reading:**

Class 4 (February 16)
Local Government: Expenditure and Revenue

Reading:

Term Paper Introduced
Draft Due April 6
Final Due May 11

Class 5 (February 23)
Local Government Budgeting
Guest Speaker: TBD

Reading:

Class 6 (March 2)
Determining Infrastructure Needs

Reading:

Class 7 (March 9)
Capital Improvement Planning
Guest Speaker: TBD

Reading:
Class 8 (March 16)
Fiscal Impact Analysis

Reading:

Recommended Reading

Fiscal Impact Exercise Introduced (Due April 13)

Class 9 (March 23)
Cost Benefit Analysis
Reading:

C/B Exercise Introduced (Due April 20)

Debt Management
Reading:

Class 10 (March 30) — no class, Spring Break!!!

Class 11 (April 6)
Property and Non-Property Taxes
Reading:
Recommended Reading

Draft Term Paper due (bring a hard copy to the class and also email to instructor with the subject line “Name: URBP250/150 Draft Term Paper); Instructor will electronically distribute among the classmates.

Class 12 (April 13)

User Fees
Reading:

Fiscal Impact Exercise Due (bring a hard copy to the class)

Class 13 (April 20)

Special Districts
Reading:

C/B Exercise Due (bring a hard copy to the class)

Class 14 (April 27)

Development Impact Fees
Reading:

Impact Fee Exercise Introduced (Due May 11)
Reading:

**Class 15 (May 4)**
*Public Private Partnerships (PPPs); Land Pooling and Reconstitution (LPR)*

**PPP**

**LPR**

**Class 16 (May 11)**
*Presentation of Term Paper*
(Guidelines for presentation will be handed out separately in class)

*Final Term Paper due (bring a hard copy to class and also email to instructor with the subject line: “Name: 250/150 Term Paper”)*
*Impact Fee Exercise Due (bring a hard copy to the class)*

**Class 17 (May 18)**
*Final’s exam week. Class meets from 7:45 pm to 10 pm*

*Presentation of Term Paper; Course Reflection*

**Reading for Course Reflection**