Overview: This course, taught jointly by faculty members of the School of Law and the Wagner School, offers students an opportunity to explore the theoretical underpinnings of arguments being advanced in current debates about such critical urban policy issues as possible contributors and consequences of the housing crisis; the impacts of various efforts to increase the production of affordable housing; and the successes and failures of efforts to improve and equalize the quality of education. The course is not taught in a lecture format. Rather, the colloquium focuses on discussions of academic works in progress by scholars from around the country, working in such disciplines as planning, law, public policy, and economics. In colloquium weeks, students participate in an in-depth discussion of the paper with the author, and academics and policy experts from the New York area. Students submit a short paper critiquing the work in progress, and have the opportunity to meet informally (usually over dinner) with a few authors to discuss the topic further. In non-speaker weeks, students meet with the instructors to discuss supplemental readings and learn the background necessary to understand upcoming papers.

This semester the outside speakers will focus on one of three themes: Policy Spillovers and Housing; the Housing Crisis; and Current Challenges for Local Governments in a Federalist System. Each theme begins with a set of background readings, and a class dedicated to the topic.

Prerequisites for Wagner students: CORE-GP.1011; PADM-GP.2140 or URPL-GP.2608

Meeting Times and Places:

The Colloquium will meet on Wednesdays from 2:00 - 3:50 p.m. in Room 202 of Vanderbilt Hall, 40 Washington Square South. Note: the course follows the Law School calendar, with the first class held on January 18th, and the last class on April 25th

Schedule of the Course:
(Sessions highlighted in bold are open to the public)

Class 1 - January 18th Introduction to Colloquium; background lecture on basics of research design and quantitative methods
Readings:

Howell E. Jackson et al., Chapters 8 (Fundamentals of Statistical Analysis) and 9 (Multivariate Statistics), in *Analytical Methods for Lawyers*, 2003 (a not very good copy is available on Blackboard)

Been, Critiquing Empirical Work (available on Blackboard)

Ellen, Lens and O’Regan, American Murder Mystery Revisited (available on Blackboard)


**Weeks 2-5  ** Policy Spillovers and Housing

Class 2 - January 25th  Background week on housing in urban areas, policy spillovers

Class 3 - February 1st  **Amanda Geller**, Associate Research Scientist, Columbia University

**Paper Topic:** Partner Incarceration and the Housing Insecurity of Urban Women.

Class 4 - February 8th  **Lindsay Page**, Senior research manager and lecturer, and **David Liebowitz**, Doctoral candidate, Harvard Graduate School of Education

**Paper Topic:** Is School Policy Housing Policy? Evidence from the End of Desegregation in Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Class 5 - February 15th  **Heather Schwartz**, Associate Policy Researcher, The Rand Institute

**Paper Topic:** Housing Policy is School policy)

**Weeks 6 – 10** The housing crisis

Class 6 - February 22nd  Background on the housing crisis

Background lecture on mortgage finance

Readings: TBA

Class 7 – February 29th  Neil Bhutta, Federal Reserve
**Paper Topic:** Consumer Ruthlessness and Strategic Default
During the 2007-2009 Housing Bust

Class 8 – March 7\textsuperscript{th}

**Gary Painter**, University of Southern California
Paper Topic: Caught in the Housing Bubble: Immigrants' Housing Outcomes in Traditional Gateways and Newly Emerging Destinations

No class March 14\textsuperscript{th} – Spring Break

Class 9- March 21\textsuperscript{st}

**Raven Molloy**, Cleveland Federal Reserve
Paper topic: The Post-Foreclosure Experience of U.S. Households

Class 10 – March 28\textsuperscript{th}

**Rucker Johnson**, Associate Professor of Public Policy, UC Berkeley Goldman School
**Paper topic:** The Impact Of Credit Constraints On College Enrollment & Degree Attainment: Evidence From The Housing Boom & Bust

Weeks 11-14 Current Challenges for local governments in a Federalist System

Class 11 April 4\textsuperscript{th}
Background on Federalist system

Class 12 or 13 **Clay Gillette**, NYU Law School
**Paper Topic:** Financial Control Boards and Municipal Fiscal Crises

Class 12 or 13 TBD

Class 14 **Lynn Fisher**, Associate Professor of Finance, University of North Carolina
**Paper Topic:** State Intervention in Local Land Use Decisions: The Case of Massachusetts

Course materials:
The course materials will be posted on Blackboard (or provided in class), in several
installments throughout the semester (but always more than a week before class). Required readings include the papers authored by our speakers and background readings assigned for each of the preview sessions.

Assignments:

The colloquium will consider ten papers, listed above in the course schedule. For each paper, students must submit two questions to address to the author about the paper. Those questions must be e-mailed to Urban@exchange.law.nyu.edu no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Sunday before the colloquium session attended by the author (in order to give the faculty time to suggest refinements in the questions). Please use the following form in subject line: Student Last Name/Questions for/Last Name(s) of Author(s) of Paper. For example: Been, Questions for Ellen, Lens & O’Regan

Students also are required to submit a critique of five of the papers. The critiques must be e-mailed to the faculty by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the presentation. Each critique should be between 900 and 1200 words. The critique should assume that the reader is familiar with the paper, and should not summarize its contents. Instead, the critique should analyze such questions as:

- Is the question the study seeks to answer, or the argument the analysis advances, clear, precise, and important?
- What assumptions underlie the methodology or argument, and are they unjustified?
- How, if at all, would relaxing assumptions underlying the argument change the result?
- Are there any flaws in the study's methodology?
- Are there any flaws in the argument’s logic?
- Does the methodology actually test the hypothesis?
- What questions did the author ignore that should have been considered?
- Are there alternative explanations for the study's findings?

These questions are suggestions only, and are not meant to be exhaustive. A critique should tackle just one or a few of the questions, not all of them. Again, please email the critiques to Urban@exchange.law.nyu.edu. Attach a word file to the email with your critique, and name the file as follows: Student Last Name/Critique #[1-5] of/Last Name(s) of author(s) of paper. For example: O’Regan, Critique #1 of Ellen, Lens & O’Regan.

Course requirements:

1. Class Participation: Students will be expected to attend and participate in each class and to submit questions in advance of each session with an outside speaker. Class participation will count for 25% of a student's grade.
2. Papers: The five critiques will collectively count for 75% of a student's grade.

Professors’ Contact Information:

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