Course Title: Urban Governance
Tutor: Dr. Wen-I Lin (林文一)

Teaching Aims:

The aim of this course is to explore the key concepts of and the interrelationships between urban politics, governance, partnership and community. A core focus is on debates over the conceptualization, institutionalization and impacts of governing processes on the functioning of cities, and the social, economic, political or environmental consequences that result from planning and development. Through 12 lectures, the tutor expects students:

a. To acquire understanding of conceptual debates relating to the conceptual framework and discourse of ‘urban governance’
b. To critically assess the implications of governing processes for the development of urban environments, politics and planning.
c. To connect the above understanding with the UK’s (or EU’s) experiences of reforming governing institution or organization.
d. To acquire and reflect Taiwan’s experience of pursuing the concept of urban governance and community activation.

Key themes and readings of each lecture:

1. The crises of modern state and the concept of governance
   a. what is the crises of the advance capitalist state from Habermas’s perspective
   b. how these crises relates to the concept of urban governance and planning

Key reading:


Secondary reading:

2. Neoliberalist narratives of governance and the failure of state
   a. The failure of state and the justification of neoliberalist narrative of governance
   b. The dead of ‘big’ state and society
   c. Key themes and the dualist narrative between government and governance

Key reading:

Secondary reading:

3. Urban Entrepreneurship and Urban Development corporations (UDCs)
   a. The concept of urban entrepreneurship and its critiques
   b. The institutionalization of urban entrepreneurship
   c. Case studies: UDC in Dockland and Cardiff

Key reading:

Secondary reading:
4. **Managerialism, professionalism and governance**
   a. Governing a city like managing a corporation
   b. Governing ‘urban manager’: normalization and rationale choice
   c. Rethinking expertise: professional knowledge and citizen participation

Key reading:

Secondary reading:

5. **The failure of market as well, and the limitation of arguing neoliberalist narratives of governance**
   a. New Labour’s critiques of the Conservative government
   b. Were all failures resulted from marketisation or privatization?

Key reading:

Secondary reading:

6. **New institutionalist narratives of governance and network governance**
   a. Governance as a network of collaborative working and deliberation
   b. The rationale of governing network
c. The weakness and failure of new institutionalist narratives

Key reading:

Secondary reading:

7. **The Third Way: Governing cities through partnership working and community?**
   a. New Labour, new London governance: governing London through partnership working
   b. The invisible hand behind the Mayor of London: Government Office for London (GOL)
   c. The fake mayoral governance? Weak Great London Authority (GLA) and central-local relationship

Key reading:

Secondary reading:
8. **The new partnership? New Labour’s local strategic partnership and community strategy**

Key reading:


Secondary reading:


9. **Foucauldian concept of regime of ‘truth’ and discipline in studying governance**

   a. Governing cities and building of discipline
   b. Official regime of truth: the judge of urban problems and properties
   c. English Floor Targets and centralizing control through government’s statistics

Key reading:

Rose, N., & Miller, P. (1992). Political power beyond the state: problematics of


Secondary reading:


10. **Governmentality, remote control and performance governance**

   a. Governmentality in practice: Public Service agreement and Local Area Agreement
   b. Remote control and the governance of local state’s and partnership’s performance
   c. Playing the game of meeting targets

Key reading:


Secondary reading:


See Pages of England’s ‘Public Service Agreement’ and ‘Local Area Agreement’


11. **Governance, social elites and the public sphere**

   a. State, society and the public sphere
   b. Governing cities through state’s project of building public sphere
   c. Elite, stakeholder representation and the closure of local politics
Key reading:


Secondary reading:


12. Chinese Governmentality: an emerging research angle?

a. Can we use the concept of governance and governmentality to review and (re-)design our urban governance?

b. Is it possible to re-write the history of Chinese urban governance through the reflection of Foucauldian and Habermasian approach?

c. How can we prevent the problems of another kinds of Orientalism (Said’s term) or over-simplified imitation of theory?

Key reading:


Secondary reading:
550-570.


**Other reading and useful website:**


Palgrave, New York.

London.


Keynes.


The Audit Commission has written a number of reports on urban regeneration and
urban policy: [http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation provides a good summary of the findings of its
research projects at: [www.jrf.org](http://www.jrf.org)

Excellent summary articles and case studies can be found at the *Guardian Unlimited*
webpage on urban regeneration:  [www.societyguardian.co.uk/regeneration](http://www.societyguardian.co.uk/regeneration)

The DCLG webpage [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

**Assessment**
The main course assessment involves One 2,000 word essay and One presentation of a appointed topics. Students’ participation of each lecture’s discussion will be assessed by the tutor’s observation and questioning to students at random.