

GOV 370L 38855 Urban Politics
URB 350 37610 Urban Politics
Spring 2012

Instructor: Shannon Bow (O'Brien), PhD
Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2-3pm
Location: WAG 214
Office Hours: 3.226 Mezes. 232-7213 (but I really prefer email)
MWF 10:45-11:45, M 3:30-4:30
I am also available by appointment.
If class is cancelled/not being held, office hours are cancelled too.
Email: shannonbow@hotmail.com

Be sure to include something about urban politics class in the subject line so I will be sure to read your email ASAP

This course introduces and explores the development of the urban landscape in America. Cities did not simply spring into existence. Their geographical and physical constraints combined with social, ethnic, and political pressures shaped and continue to shape their development. This course is designed to mostly introduce you to some ideas of urban politics in America. The first part of the semester concentrates on the development of the cities. This part of the class will focus primarily on the rural to urban shift in America. The second part of the semester will explore the move from urban to suburban living. This part of the class will look at more modern issues and topics in the cities (i.e. problems created by people moving out, financial attempts to solve these problems, new urbanism, gated communities, social/racial strife).

Required Readings

There is ONE Book:

Judd, Dennis R. and Todd Swanstrom. City Politics 8th edition. Longman Publishers, 2011
ISBN-10: 020503246X **ISBN-13:** 978-0205032464

I may pass out or assign other articles online related to the class. If I do distribute or assign a reading, consider it fair game for a test. I will announce it/pass it out in class and also post a note on the website/blackboard giving the title and source of the reading.

Grades:

Grades will be based on the following:

Test 1	February 22 (Wednesday)	25%
Test 2	April 4 (Monday)	30%
Test 3 (Final Exam)	May 4 (Friday)	30%
Paper Assignments (5% each)		15%

If attendance becomes extremely low, or if I think pop quizzes are in order, I may begin to take attendance or give quizzes. If I do exercise this option, I will announce it in class and on Blackboard as well as with the re-weighted grade scale. However, attendance is NOT required for this course.

I also reserve the right to make any changes to the grading system I see fit during the semester. This may include, but is not limited to additional paper assignments (if I determine they are needed), or moving the test dates to accommodate unforeseen circumstances (think hurricanes and natural disasters, not doctor's appointments).

Grade Scale:

The University uses a plus/minus system. Here is the scale I will use for the class for grades. I do NOT round up or negotiate grades. You will receive your earned grade based on performance.

A:	93-100	C:	73-76.99
A-:	90-92.99	C-:	70-72.99
B+:	87-89.99	D+:	67-69.99
B:	83-86.99	D:	63-66.99
B-:	80-82.99	D-:	60-62.99
C+:	77-79.99	F:	Less than 60

The test days are fixed and announced the first day of class. They will not be changed or negotiated. If these test days do not fit your personal schedule, do **NOT** enroll in this course. There are too many students in this course to work with you to make these dates fit vacations, trips, or other such matters. While I will abide by university approved absences and work with students, make up exams are only given for approved absences.

Paper assignments are always accepted early if you choose to turn it in. If papers are late without an acceptable excuse, they lose 1/4th a grade for every day they are late (and yes, weekends count!... email the paper to stop penalties! Day one late: top grade is 4.75 or 95%, Day two: 4.5 or 90%, etc.). While I do not make it a point to accept late papers without penalty, I will listen to any pressing reasons you have for not having it ready to turn in on the assigned day. All papers are due in class. I stop late penalties at 50%. All papers turned in past 10 days late start at 50% regardless of when they are turned in for the rest of the semester.

Late assignments are only accepted until April 30, 2012. No paper assignments will be accepted after that day.

All assignment grades can only be questioned or challenged for 2 weeks after the date I pass them back in class. If you skip class that day, the time still starts counting. If the grade is not questioned or challenged in this time frame, it stands as recorded. This is designed to encourage students to retrieve their papers and also to not question grades in May that were handed back in March because they decide they do not like their final class grade.

Three exams will be given. They will cover material presented in lectures and in the readings from the text, as well as any other material assigned/presented in class (including videos and lecturers). The 2nd and 3rd exams are **NOT** comprehensive and will only cover material presented since the previous exam. However, most of concepts in this course build upon each other so you will be expected to retain information from earlier portions of the class.

I do not return tests in this class though I return Assignments 1, 2, 3. You are **always** welcome to come in during the semester to look at your tests (Yes, you can still look at test 1 after the 3rd exam if you wish). The professor will keep the copies of your tests in her office.

Paper Assignments

The paper assignments are going to be in a different format from previous semesters. Each assignment will be short forms you will be expected to fill thoroughly fill out about specific aspects of Urban politics. They will be available on blackboard about a week to 10 days before they are due.

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating

You will be expected to adhere to the UT Honor Code: *The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.*

Though obvious, cheating is not allowed on any assignments or exams. Cheating involves transmitting or receiving any information from any electronic device, paper, hand signals, or other means of communication during a test. Plagiarism is also prohibited. It refers to copying any work from any source (electronic, paper, etc) without noting/citing where it is originally from. It is important to note that using ideas (and not just quotes) from other sources without proper citation also counts as plagiarism. Any assignments turned in will be assumed to be the final version of the assignment and any inappropriate material will be considered intentional and not accidental.

You will be asked to remove hats and sunglasses while taking an exam. The use of cellular phones/beepers/palm pilots/wi fi/text messaging/etc are PROHIBITED during lectures and tests. Students will be asked to leave class if they fail to comply with this rule. Furthermore, if a cellular phone goes off during an exam, we will collect the exam immediately and the student will not be allowed to complete the test. If we discover any student using or receiving messages from any electronic device during the exam, they will automatically fail the exam and be referred to the proper University authorities for cheating. In addition, any student caught cheating in any conventional manner (i.e. using notes, cheat sheets, looking at another student's paper) will also fail and be referred to the proper authorities for cheating.

Students are allowed to use laptops during lectures for **note taking only**. Students who need such electronic devices because of a disability are allowed to use them during the exam in the appropriate centers for disability/modified testing (these students are only

allowed to use devices to facilitate learning and are forbidden to use them for scholastic dishonesty). You can contact the office at: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/contact.php> if you need to talk to them about scheduling tests (but I need to know as well).

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, visit the Student Judicial Services web site <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

Blackboard

I will attempt to use Blackboard as a way to provide information to the class. In the past, I have regularly made RTF versions of my Powerpoint slides available prior to class. However, if I encounter problems utilizing Blackboard, I may shift my materials (including test guides and other things) to another website devoted to making material available to the class. I will announce any changes of this sort to the class.

I will try to post on Blackboard review sheets prior to each exam. These sheets should not be considered the definitive study guide for the test. Rather, they are a list of major concepts and ideas you should definitely know for the exam.

Additional information

Do NOT phone or email me about a grade (i.e. "What did I get?"). We will post grades electronically as soon as practical.

If you need extra time on a test and/or require special physical accommodations, please contact me in confidence as soon as possible at the beginning of the course. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs within the guidelines set forth by the University.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line.

Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>

Make-up exams/Excused Absences

Absences on exam days may be excused if the student provides verifiable documentation of accident, illness, or university or legal obligation. Unexcused absences from examinations will result in a score of zero for that exam.

I **STRONGLY** encourage you not to miss an exam. The make up may be different from the exam given to the rest of the class. It may include an essay format, but the exam format is at my discretion.

One more thing: If a true emergency occurs that you know you can document, take care of yourself first and we will sort it out later. You do not need to call me from the ER or jail to let us know you won't be there. In those situations, you have bigger problems than this class at that moment in time.

Class Calendar

Please note: *The readings for this day are the readings I expect you to have done PRIOR to that day. They are the readings we will discuss in class that day, not the readings assigned to read on that day and discussed on the following day. The schedule may change depending on the class and how quickly or slowly we get through material*

January 18 Wed	Pass out Syllabus	
January 20 Fri	Introduction/Chapter 1 The Evolution of City Politics in America	
January 23 Monday	Chapter 1/Chapter 2	
January 25 Wednesday	Chapter 2 : Legacy of America's Urban Past	
January 27 Friday	Chapter 2 Legacy of America's Urban Past	
January 30 Monday	Chapter 3 – Party Machines	
February 1 Wednesday	Chapter 3 – Party Machines	
February 3 Friday	Chapter 3 – Party Machines	
February 6 Monday	Chapter 4- The Reform Crusades	
February 8 Wed	Chapter 4 – The Reform Crusades	Assignment 1 Due
February 10 Friday	Chapter 4 – The Reform Crusades	
February 13 Monday	Chapter 4 – The Reform Crusades	
February 15 Wed	Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority	
February 17 Friday	Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority	
February 20 Monday	Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority	
February 22 Wed	TEST ONE (Covers Chapters 1-5)	
February 24 Friday	Chapter 6 City-Suburban Divide	
February 27 Monday	Chapter 6 City-Suburban Divide	
February 29 Wed	Chapter 6 City-Suburban Divide	
March 2 Friday	Chapter 7 – National Policy	
March 5 Monday	Chapter 7 – National Policy	
March 7 Wednesday	Chapter 7 – National Policy	
March 9 Friday	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race	
March 12 Monday	Spring Break – NO CLASS	
March 14 Wednesday	Spring Break – NO CLASS	

March 16 Friday	Spring Break – NO CLASS	
March 19 Monday	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race	
March 21 Wednesday	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race	Assignment 2
March 23 Friday	Chapter 9 – The Rise of the Sunbelt	
March 26 Monday	Chapter 9 – The Rise of the Sunbelt	
March 28 Wednesday	Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	
March 30 Friday	Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 2 Monday	Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 4 Wednesday	TEST TWO (covers Chapters 6-10)	
April 6 Friday	Chapter 11 –Governing the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 9 Monday	Chapter 11 –Governing the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 11 Wednesday	Chapter 11 – Governing the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 13 Friday	Chapter 11 – Governing the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 16 Monday	Chapter 12 – Metropolitan Chase	
April 18 Wednesday	Chapter 12 – Metropolitan Chase	Assignment 3
April 20 Friday	Chapter 12 – Metropolitan Chase	
April 23 Monday	Chapter 13: Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center	
April 25 Wednesday	Chapter 13: Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center	
April 27 Friday	Chapter 13: Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center	
April 30 Monday	Chapter 14: Governing in the 21 st Center	
May 2 Wednesday	Chapter 14: Governing in the 21 st Center /Chapter 15 if time	
May 4 Friday	TEST THREE (Chapters 11-14/15)	