

POSC 355 Urban Politics
Dr. Theodore J. Davis, Jr.
Fall 2018

Paper Instructions

Synopsis and Bibliography
Due September 28th (worth 10 points)

You are to turn the following:

- the title of the project,
- two-page synopsis that includes
 - a thesis statement
 - a statement of objectives and significance of the study
- reference page with minimum of seven resources.

Final Paper
Due Date: November 29
Worth: 60 points

Directions:

1. The paper's purpose is to increase understanding of urban politics by engaging in a project that allows that exploration of some aspect of urban communities.
2. The text of the paper (which does not include the footnotes, charts, bibliography, etc.) should be between 8 and 10 pages.
3. Paper should be typed and double-spaced.
4. The first page should be the title page, which will include:
 - a. the title of the paper
 - b. author identification (class identifier only)
 - c. course name
 - d. semester
 - e. Professor's name
 - f. 100 word abstract

5. Body/Nature of the Paper

Analytical Research Papers: Analytical research papers attempt to help readers and the others understand political actors, events, trends, institutions, or movements as they relate to urban politics or policy. Political analysis is about assigning reasons for behavior with an eye toward influencing strategies to be formulated. In this paper, you are expected to break a topic or concept down into its parts to inspect and understand it, and to restructure those parts in a way that makes sense to you and the reader.

The structure of the paper:

- Title

- Introduction (1 to 2 pages and includes a thesis/goals statement and discussion of the significance)
- Argument/discussion of objective 1
- Argument/discussion of objective 2
- Argument/discussion of objective 3
- Conclusion

6. Regardless of the format method you choose, you are required to use at least seven ***scholarly*** sources. Information from government websites are permitted, information from other websites should be pre-approved by the professor.

7. All papers are due by 4:30 on the due date. Papers turned after this date will have five points deducted for each day late (no exceptions)

8. Your paper will be graded by the following criteria:

- a. Research materials/sources (quality and type of books, articles, etc. used and whether or not the research resources available were fully exhausted).
- b. Organization of paper (presentation of research facts, findings, and conclusions in a clear and expressive manner).
- c. Adequate and sufficient discussion of the subject matter through synthesis, interpretation, and analysis or reliable and valid facts and information.
- d. Completeness and Thoroughness
- e. Originality and Creativity

9. You are strongly encouraged to get your topic and assignment format approved by the professor.

Suggested Topics (free to choose topics not on the list):

- Urban sprawl
- Residential segregation
- Economic dislocation and urban policy
- Land use
- Deindustrialization
- Economic development
- Urban schools
- Urban planning
- Urban renewal and community development
- Environmental issues in urban environments
- Energy issues in urban environments
- Transportation issues in urban environments
- Health care issues and urban environments
- City Finances
- The economy of the city
- Housing issues in urban areas

- Race and urban politics
- Changing social class patterns
- Crime and the criminal justice system in urban areas
- The controversy over immigration
- The structure of urban government
- Community organizing
- The social setting of urban environments
- The political setting of urban environments
- Political traditions in the city: machine politics, reform politics, etc.
- Political participation in urban environments
- Taxing and spending in urban environments
- Local government and finances
- Federal and state urban policy
- Cities of the future and the future of cities
- Affordable housing
- Pay day lenders
- Workforce Development
- Wages
- Asset Development
- Asset Accumulation
- Asset Preservation
- Immigration
- Downtown Renaissance
- Property Rights