

GOV 370U 38790

Urban Politics

Spring 2021

Instructor: Shannon Bow O'Brien, PhD
Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2-3pm
Location: MEZ 1.306

This class is in a room which has Lectures Online enabled. All lectures will be recorded and available via Lectures Online (or taped if necessary, by professor) on Canvas. You do not have to attend class if you are uncomfortable doing so.

Assignments: All papers, assignments and tests will be online to avoid cross-contamination.

Student Hours: I only have scheduled(booked) 15-minute appointments (not drop in) this semester to help with social distancing.
Online: I will have scheduled (booked) 15-minute appointments on Tuesday/Thursday from 10:30-noon.
In person: By Appointment. Just email me to set it up.
All appointments (online) are booked in 15-minute increments.

Book ALL Meetings here: <https://calendly.com/professorobrien/>

Note: I will add more times if deemed necessary and they will be announced on canvas.

Email: shannonbow@utexas.edu

Be sure to include something about the Urban Politics class in the subject line. I am teaching Social Movements, Urban Politics and Engineering Communications this semester so an email saying 'question about class' needs to be more specific.

Please routinely check Canvas for this class. I post Powerpoint slides, notes and information I feel are important to the class. In addition, we will post your grades online.

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 Annika M. Hinze. City Politics 10th edition. Pearson, 2019
ISBN: 9781138055230

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/Canvas giving the title and source of the reading.

Grades:

Grades will be based on the following:

Test 1	Released February 17 at 3:30pm Due February 19 at 11:59pm	30%
Test 2	Released March 31 at 3:30pm Due April 2 at 11:59pm	30%
Test 3	Released May 5 at 3:30pm Due May 7 at 11:59pm	30%
Paper Assignments (5% each)		10%

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 Canvas 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, 2021. No paper assignments will be accepted after that day.

Test 1 & 2 and Assignments 1 & 2 can only be questioned or challenged for 2 weeks after the date the grades are released on Canvas. If you don't look at them, 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 February 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. If you ask me in class if the final is comprehensive, I reserve the right to raise my eyebrow at you and/or roll my eyes.

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 unauthorized 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 allowed to use open book and open note for the exams online. If we discover any student using or receiving messages during the exam (unauthorized collaboration), they will automatically fail the exam and be referred to the proper University authorities for cheating. Any student caught cheating/using notes/communicating with others during (or if we later discover) an exam will fail the test and will be reported to the proper authorities.

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/>.

Canvas

I will attempt to use Canvas 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 Canvas, 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 Canvas 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.

Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Safety and Class Participation/Masks: We will all need to make some adjustments in order to benefit from in-person classroom interactions in a safe and healthy manner. Our best protections against spreading COVID-19 on campus are masks (defined as cloth face coverings) and staying home if you are showing symptoms. Therefore, for the benefit of everyone, this means that all students are required to follow these important rules.

- Every student must wear a cloth face-covering properly in class and in all campus buildings at all times.
- Wearing a [recommended protective face mask](#) at all times when inside university buildings will be mandatory except when alone in a private office, eating in a campus dining facility or when students are in their own residence hall rooms. UT will encourage compliance by increasing awareness and fostering a spirit of cooperation. Students who refuse to follow directives to wear a mask will be referred to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. More information on how you can help keep our campus healthy this Fall can be found here: [“Protect Texas Together.”](#)
- **Students are encouraged to participate in documented daily symptom screening.** This means that each class day in which on-campus activities occur, students must upload certification from the symptom tracking app and confirm that they completed their symptom screening for that day to Canvas. Students should not upload the results of that screening, just the certificate that they completed it. If the symptom tracking app recommends that the student isolate rather than coming to class, then students must not return to class until cleared by a medical professional.
- Information regarding [safety protocols with and without symptoms](#) can be found here (https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/images/pdf/HANDOUT_SocialDistancingToIsolation_COVID-19_2020.pdf).

If a student is not wearing a cloth face-covering properly in the classroom (or any UT building), that student must leave the classroom (and building). If the student refuses to wear a cloth face covering, class will be dismissed for the remainder of the period, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the university’s Institutional Rules/General Conduct 11-404(a)(3). Students who have a condition that precludes the wearing of a cloth face covering must follow the procedures for [obtaining an accommodation](#) working with [Services for Students with Disabilities](#). (<https://orientation.utexas.edu/students-with-disabilities>)

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.

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 20 Wednesday	Introduction to Course/Pass out Syllabus	
January 22 Friday	Chapter 1 City Politics in America	
January 25 Monday	Chapter 1/Chapter 2: The Enduring Legacy	
January 27 Wednesday	Chapter 2: The Enduring Legacy	
January 29 Friday	Chapter 2 The Enduring Legacy	
February 1 Monday	Chapter 3 – Party Machines and the Immigrants	
February 3 Wednesday	Chapter 3 – Party Machines and the Immigrants	
February 5 Friday	Chapter 3 – Party Machines and the Immigrants	
February 8 Monday	Chapter 4- The Reform Crusades	

February 10 Wednesday	Chapter 4 – The Reform Crusades	Assignment 1 Due
February 12 Friday	Chapter 4 – The Reform Crusades	
February 15 Monday	Chapter 4 – The Reform Crusades	
February 17 Wednesday	Test 1 Chapters 1-4 released Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority	
February 19 Friday	Test 1 Chapters 1-4 due Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority	
February 22 Monday	Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority	
February 24 Wednesday	Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority/Chapter 6	
February 26 Friday	Chapter 6 City-Suburban Divide	
March 1 Monday	Chapter 6 City-Suburban Divide	
March 3 Wednesday	Chapter 6 City-Suburban Divide/Chapter 7	
March 5 Friday	Chapter 7 – National Policy	
March 8 Monday	Chapter 7 – National Policy	
March 10 Wednesday	Chapter 7 – National Policy/Chapter 8	
March 12 Friday	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race	
March 15 Monday sb	Spring Break	
March 17 Wednesday sb	Spring Break	
March 19 Friday sb	Spring Break	
March 22 Monday	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race	
March 24 Wednesday	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race	

March 26 Friday	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race/Chapter 9	
March 29 Monday	Chapter 9 – The Rise of the Sunbelt	
March 31 Wednesday	Test 2 (chapters 5-9) released Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 2 Friday	Test 2 (chapters 5-9) due Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 5 Monday	Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 7 Wednesday	Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis/Chapter 11	
April 9 Friday	Chapter 11 –Governing the Fragmented Metropolis	
April 12 Monday	Chapter 11 –Governing the Fragmented Metropolis/Eminent Domain	
April 14 Wednesday	Eminent Domain	
April 16 Friday	Eminent Domain/Chapter 12	
April 19 Monday	Chapter 12 – Metropolitan Chase	Assignment 2 Due
April 21 Wednesday	Chapter 12 – Metropolitan Chase	
April 23 Friday	Chapter 12 – Metropolitan Chase/Chapter 13	
April 26 Monday	Chapter 13: Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center	
April 28 Wednesday	Chapter 13: Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center	
April 30 Friday	Chapter 13: Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center/Chapter 14	All late assignments due (no exceptions)
May 3 Monday	Chapter 14	
May 5 Wednesday	Chapter 14 if needed TEST 3 Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14(if time), Eminent Domain released	
May 7 Friday	TEST 3 Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14(if time), Eminent Domain due	