

# **GOV 370U 38110**

# **URB 355U 37160**

## **Urban Politics**

Spring 2021

**Instructor:** Shannon Bow O'Brien, PhD

**Meeting Time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2-3pm

**Location:** JES A121A

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.

Any updates will be on Canvas in the announcement page

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

**Email:** [shannonbow@utexas.edu](mailto:shannonbow@utexas.edu)

*Be sure to include something about the Urban Politics class in the subject line. I am teaching American Politics, Urban Politics and Politics and Film 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.

**TA:TBA**

Your TA will hold hours to meet with you. These will be posted on Canvas when available.

Unless your question/problem directly involves my teaching assistants, I expect you to contact them first for class assistance.

### **Course Description**

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.

## **Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA)**

The materials for this class are available through the Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA) program, a new initiative between UT Austin, The University Co-op and textbook publishers to significantly reduce the cost of digital course materials for students.

You can access your required materials through the “My Textbooks” tab in Canvas. You are automatically opted into the program but can easily opt-out (and back in) via Canvas through the 12<sup>th</sup> class day. If you remain opted-in at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> class day you will receive a bill through your “What I Owe” page and have until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> class day to pay and retain access. If you do not pay by the 18<sup>th</sup> class day, you will lose access to the materials after the 20<sup>th</sup> class day and your charge will be removed. More information about the LTA program is available at [universitycoop.com/longhorn-textbook-access](http://universitycoop.com/longhorn-textbook-access).

## **Grades:**

*Grades will based on the following:*

<b>Test 1</b>	Released February 16 Due February 18 at 11:59pm	<b>30%</b>
<b>Test 2</b>	Released March 30 Due April 1 at 11:59pm	<b>30%</b>
<b>Test 3</b>	Released May 4 Due May 6 at 11:59pm	<b>30%</b>
<b>Paper Assignments (5% each)</b>		<b>10%</b>

## **All Tests and Assignments will be ONLINE in Canvas this semester**

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+:	77-79.99
A-:	90-92.99	C:	73-76.99
B+:	87-89.99	C-:	70-72.99
B:	83-86.99	D+:	67-69.99
B-:	80-82.99	D:	63-66.99

D:- 60-62.99

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 1/4<sup>th</sup> 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 25, 2022. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Plagiarism is prohibited. It refers to copying any work from any source (electronic, paper, etc.) without noting/citing its original source. It is important to note that using ideas (and not just quotes) from other sources without proper citation also counts as plagiarism. For additional information on these items, see the University General Information Catalog at:

<https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/> and <https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/>.

**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.**

Any class materials may not be uploaded onto 3<sup>rd</sup> party websites without the professor's explicit permission. If you do so, it will be considered a violation of the honor code. The professor has the right (even after the class is completed) to submit these violations to Judicial Affairs for adjudication.

**Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited:** No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected

Unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

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, <https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/>

## **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.

## **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.

**Accessible, Inclusive, and Compliant Statement:** The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please refer to SSD's website for contact and more information: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

**Religious Holy Days:** A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable accommodation does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the Office for Inclusion and Equity. The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

**Restricting Information:** If you want your personal information restricted in the directory, the information is located here: <https://registrar.utexas.edu/students/records/restrictmyinfo>

### **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>

### **Undergraduate Student Drop Policy**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> class day, an undergraduate student can drop a course via the web and receive a refund, if eligible. From the 13<sup>th</sup> through the university's academic drop deadline, a student may Q drop a course with approval from the Dean, and departmental advisor.

### **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 19 Wednesday	Introduction to Course/Pass out Syllabus	
January 21 Friday	Chapter 1 City Politics in America	
January 24 Monday	Chapter 1/Chapter 2: The Enduring Legacy	
January 26 Wednesday	Chapter 2: The Enduring Legacy	
January 28 Friday	Chapter 2 The Enduring Legacy	

<b>January 31 Monday</b>	Chapter 3 – Party Machines and the Immigrants	
<b>February 2 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 3 – Party Machines and the Immigrants	
<b>February 4 Friday</b>	Chapter 3 – Party Machines and the Immigrants	
<b>February 7 Monday</b>	Chapter 4- The Reform Crusades	
<b>February 9 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 4 – The Reform Crusades	<b>Assignment 1 Due</b>
<b>February 11 Friday</b>	Chapter 4 – The Reform Crusades	
<b>February 14 Monday</b>	Chapter 4 – The Reform Crusades	
<b>February 16 Wednesday</b>	<b>Test 1 Chapters 1-4 released</b> Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority	
<b>February 18 Friday</b>	<b>Test 1 Chapters 1-4 due</b> Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority	
<b>February 21 Monday</b>	Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority	
<b>February 23 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority/Chapter 6	
<b>February 25 Friday</b>	Chapter 6 City-Suburban Divide	
<b>February 28 Monday</b>	Chapter 6 City-Suburban Divide	
<b>March 2 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 6 City-Suburban Divide/Chapter 7	
<b>March 4 Friday</b>	Chapter 7 – National Policy	
<b>March 7 Monday</b>	Chapter 7 – National Policy	
<b>March 9 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 7 – National Policy/Chapter 8	
<b>March 11 Friday</b>	<b>Reading Day</b>	
<b>March 13 Monday</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
<b>March 15 Wednesday</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
<b>March 18 Friday</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	

<b>March 20 Monday</b>	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race	
<b>March 23 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race	
<b>March 25 Friday</b>	Chapter 8 – Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race/Chapter 9	
<b>March 28 Monday</b>	Chapter 9 – The Rise of the Sunbelt	
<b>March 30 Wednesday</b>	<b>Test 2 (chapters 5-9) released</b> Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	
<b>April 1 Friday</b>	<b>Test 2 (chapters 5-9) due</b> Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	
<b>April 4 Monday</b>	Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	
<b>April 6 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 10 – Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis/Chapter 11	
<b>April 8 Friday</b>	Chapter 11 –Governing the Fragmented Metropolis	
<b>April 11 Monday</b>	Chapter 11 –Governing the Fragmented Metropolis/Eminent Domain	<b>Assignment 2 Due</b>
<b>April 13 Wednesday</b>	Eminent Domain	
<b>April 15 Friday</b>	Eminent Domain/Chapter 12	
<b>April 18 Monday</b>	Chapter 12 – Metropolitan Chase	
<b>April 20 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 12 – Metropolitan Chase	
<b>April 22 Friday</b>	Chapter 12 – Metropolitan Chase/Chapter 13	
<b>April 25 Monday</b>	Chapter 13: Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center	<b>All late assignments due (no exceptions)</b>
<b>April 27 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 13: Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center	
<b>April 29 Friday</b>	Chapter 13: Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center/Chapter 14	
<b>May 2 Monday</b>	Chapter 14	
<b>May 4 Wednesday</b>	Chapter 14 if needed	

	<b>TEST 3 released</b> Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14(if time), Eminent Domain	
<b>May 6 Friday</b>	<b>TEST 3 due</b> Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14(if time), Eminent Domain	