POLS 5327-001

**Fall 2021**

**Urban Policymaking and Administration**

**Room: University Hall 01**

**Wednesday: 7:00pm-9:50pm**

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**Urban Policymaking and Administration**

This is a graduate level course on the study of urban politics. Cities have significant power in important domains such as education, public safety, and the determination of land uses, rights, and privileges. How do cities use this power? What relationships do cities have with other levels of government? What are some of the major problems cities grapple with? These are some of the questions students will think about in this course. The course will cover topics that include the structure of local government and administration; theories of urban governance and citizen attempts to influence local policy-making; the politics of immigration, ethnicity and race; urban political economy; and other issues that cities commonly confront, such as group conflict and budgetary constraints.

**Prerequisites of the Course**

While this course is primarily intended for graduate students in political science, students in related disciplines are welcome. Some of the readings may be dense and technical, especially the empirical articles that refer to statistical, quantitative, and experimental methodologies. A background in statistical methods is NOT required. I will provide you with a basic background on these concepts, but it is your responsibility to understand the arguments and conclusions of the author(s). Thus, give yourself plenty of time to digest and comprehend the material.

**Student Learning Outcomes**: An important goal of this course is to offer you a broad understanding of the place of cities in American life. You should be able to apply the various perspectives and concepts you learn to current and past political events and understand the complexity of the problems cities confront and the policies and politics local officials use to address these problems. Therefore, it is my hope that by the end of the course, you will understand that while national and state-level politics have significant impacts on the lives of Americans, local politics play an equally powerful role in shaping the outcomes of its residents, and in some areas, local politics may have an even greater impact than those of other levels of government.

Another important goal of this course is to develop and engage your critical thinking skills. Therefore, you will read the material with a critical eye, highlighting particular strengths or weaknesses of various theories, methodologies, and measurement techniques. In doing so, you will also understand political science as a discipline with theoretical traditions and various methodological approaches. To achieve these goals, active participation, in-class presentations, and written assignments, will help you develop your written and spoken communication skills.

**Canvas**: We will make use of our course page in Canvas, available at:

<https://www.uta.edu/provost/Canvas/uta-canvas-login.php>

**Required Books**

Students are required to obtain the following books:

- Peterson, Paul. 1981. *City Limits*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226662930

***-All other assigned readings will be available electronically on Canvas or through the library journal databases.***

**Description of Requirements**

***Attendance, Presentation, and Participation:*** Attending seminar every week is mandatory. Each student will deliver a power point presentation on one of the weekly articles and serve as a discussant(s), posing to the class two questions about that particular reading. Student presenters should not merely summarize the readings but also provide critical analyses of them. For students who are not serving as a presenter/discussant that week, active participation in discussion is required. Thus, students should come to class prepared, having read and carefully thought about the material and ready to answer questions presented by the presenter/discussant and instructor.

***Papers:*** Students are required to write two papers. Each paper should be approximately 5 pages in length (double-spaced with one-inch margins). The paper topics and questions will be distributed several weeks before the paper is due. Students may also formulate their own question(s) and thesis as long as they consult with me.

***Final Exam Essay***: Students will complete a 8-10 page final exam essay that is modeled after the MA comprehensive exam. The question and instructions will be distributed one week before the exam is due.

**Late Essays:** The 5-page essays are due on the date specified. *For each day the paper is late, I will impose a 5-point deduction.* If you have a special circumstance that prevents you from submitting your assignment on time, please consult with me in advance (meaning a reasonable time before the deadline) to avoid a penalty.

**Incompletes:** Incompletes will be given only in extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor.

**Grading Breakdown:**

**Student grades will be calculated as follows:**

Essay 1: 20% (40 points)

Essay 2: 20% (40 points)

Final Exam : 30% (60 points)

Class Presentation: 15% (30 points)

Class Participation: 15% (30 points)

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

180-200 points: A (90-100%)

160-179 points: B (80-89%)

140-159 points: C (70-79%)

120-139 points: D (60-69%)

Below 120 points: F (below 60%)

**Grading Questions:** All questions regarding grades on assignments must be submitted in writing and include a reasonable explanation for consideration.

**Office Hours:** I highly encourage students to come see me during my office hours with questions related to the course material and/or assessments. If you cannot meet with me during my scheduled office hours, please contact me over email so that we can set up a time that works for the both of us during university business hours.

**Electronic Devices:** Laptops and tablets are permitted in class. However, I expect you to use these devices solely for the purposes of taking notes or participating in class activities. Therefore, please refrain from using your devices to engage in activities that are unrelated to class (emailing, checking Facebook, purchasing items online, playing games, etc.). Additionally, please keep all cell phones on silent for the duration of the class.

**Bad Weather:** Any class cancellations issued by the University as a result of bad weather will result in the scheduled topic or exam being held on the next class day.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through selfservice in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/).

**Disability Accommodations:** UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ calling 817-272-3671, is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*.*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated.*For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or <jmhood@uta.edu>.

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

***Communicating with the Instructor:***

*I can only read emails from students using their MavMail accounts. Therefore, do not send me emails using non-university accounts, such as Gmail, Yahoo, or Hotmail.* I will try to respond to emails as quickly as possible during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm), usually within 24 hours. However, please note that emails sent after hours, on weekends, and over University holidays may have a longer response time. Every email you send should have “Urban Policymaking and Administration” and the specific question/concern within the subject line. If I think your question or concern cannot be adequately addressed over email, I will ask you to come to my office hours.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

**Final Review Week**: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php.

**Schedule of Topics**

**Syllabus Changes**: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

**Week 1: August 25, 2021**

***Introduction and course expectations***

**I. THEORIES OF URBAN GOVERNANCE**

**Week 2: September 1, 2021**

***Pluralism***

1. Dahl, Robert A. *Who Governs?: Democracy And Power In An American City*. Yale University Press, 2005. (selected chapters posted on Canvas)
2. Guterbock, Thomas M. "The political economy of urban revitalization: competing theories." *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 15.4 (1980): 429-438.
3. Schumaker, Paul. "Group involvements in city politics and pluralist theory." *Urban Affairs Review* 49.2 (2013): 254-281.

**Week 3: September 8, 2021**

***Regime Theory***

1. Mossberger, Karen, and Gerry Stoker. "The evolution of urban regime theory: The challenge of conceptualization." *Urban affairs review* 36.6 (2001): 810-835.
2. Rast, Joel. "Urban regime theory and the problem of change." *Urban Affairs Review* 51.1 (2015): 138-149.
3. Stone, Clarence N. "Reflections on regime politics: From governing coalition to urban political order." *Urban Affairs Review* 51.1 (2015): 101-137.

**Week 4: September 15, 2021**

***Public Choice***

1. Peterson, Paul E. *City limits*. University of Chicago Press, 1981. (selected chapters)

**II. THE POLITICS OF REVENUE COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE**

**Week 5: September 22, 2021**

***Quantitative Research Methods and the Study of Urban Politics***

Readings: TBD

**Week 6: September 29, 2021**

***Fiscal Policy***

1. Craw, Michael. "Taming the local leviathan: Institutional and economic constraints on municipal budgets." *Urban Affairs Review* 43.5 (2008): 663-690.
2. Martin, Isaac William, Jane Lilly Lopez, and Lauren Olsen. "Policy Design and the Politics of City Revenue: Evidence from California Municipal Ballot Measures." *Urban Affairs Review* (2018):
3. Kim, Yunji. "Limits of property taxes and charges: City revenue structures after the Great Recession." *Urban Affairs Review* 55.1 (2019): 185-209.

**Week 7: October 6, 2021**

***The Market***

1. ***Paper #1 due by noon on Canvas***
2. Tiebout, Charles M. "A pure theory of local expenditures." *Journal of political economy* 64.5 (1956): 416-424.
3. Bickers, Kenneth N., Lapo Salucci, and Robert M. Stein. "Assessing the micro-foundations of the Tiebout model." *Urban Affairs Review* 42.1 (2006): 57-80
4. Salucci, Lapo, and Kenneth Bickers. "Exit, voice, and electoral turnover." *Urban Affairs Review* 47.2 (2011): 155-182.

**III. URBAN DECLINE, RENEWAL, AND MOVEMENT TO THE SUBURBS**

**Week 8: October 13, 2021**

***Urban Decline and Renewal***

1. Manville, Michael, and Daniel Kuhlmann. "The Social and Fiscal Consequences of Urban Decline: Evidence from Large American Cities, 1980–2010." *Urban Affairs Review* 54.3 (2018): 451-489.
2. Mallach, Alan. "The uncoupling of the economic city: Increasing spatial and economic polarization in American older industrial cities." *Urban Affairs Review* 51.4 (2015): 443-473.
3. Freeman, Lance. "Displacement or succession? Residential mobility in gentrifying neighborhoods." *Urban Affairs Review* 40.4 (2005): 463-491.

**Week 9: October 20, 2021**

***Suburbs***

1. Dilworth, Richardson. "From Sewers to Suburbs: Transforming the Policy-Making Context of American Cities." *Urban Affairs Review* 38.5 (2003): 726-739.
2. Oliver, J. Eric. "Mental life and the metropolis in suburban America: The psychological correlates of metropolitan place characteristics." *Urban Affairs Review* 39.2 (2003): 228-253.
3. Hall, Matthew, and Barrett Lee. "How diverse are US suburbs?." *Urban Studies* 47.1 (2010): 3-28.

**IV. CITIES IN A FEDERAL SYSTEM**

**Week 10: October 27, 2021**

***Cities in a Federal System***

1. Eisinger, Peter. "City politics in an era of federal devolution." *Urban Affairs Review* 33.3 (1998): 308-325.
2. Wong, Kenneth K., and Paul E. Peterson. "Urban response to federal program flexibility: Politics of Community Development Block Grant." *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 21.3 (1986): 293-309.
3. Bowman, Ann O’M., and Richard C. Kearney. "Are US cities losing power and authority? Perceptions of local government actors." *Urban affairs review* 48.4 (2012): 528-546.
4. Swanson, Jeffrey, and Charles Barrilleaux. "State Government Preemption of Local Government Decisions Through the State Courts." *Urban Affairs Review* (2018).

**V. CITIZEN EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Week 11. November 3, 2021**

***Voting in the Urban Context***

1. ***Paper #2 Due in Class***
2. Caren, Neal. "Big city, big turnout? Electoral participation in American cities." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 29.1 (2007): 31-46
3. Oliver, J. Eric, and Shang E. Ha. "Vote choice in suburban elections." *American Political Science Review* 101.3 (2007): 393-408.
4. Hajnal, Zoltan, and Jessica Trounstine. "What underlies urban politics? Race, class, ideology, partisanship, and the urban vote." *Urban Affairs Review* 50.1 (2014): 63-99.

**Week 12: November 10, 2021**

***Public Engagement with Local Officials***

1. Adams, Brian. "Public meetings and the democratic process." *Public Administration Review* 64.1 (2004): 43-54.
2. Hock, Scott, Sarah Anderson, and Matthew Potoski. "Invitation phone calls increase attendance at civic meetings: Evidence from a field experiment." *Public Administration Review* 73.2 (2013): 221-228.
3. Williamson, Anne R., and Michael J. Scicchitano. "Dimensions of Public Meeting Participation: Evidence from Florida’s Truth-in-Millage Act." *Urban Affairs Review* 50.1 (2014): 134-146.
4. Hoang, Bai Linh. "Race and Legislative Responsiveness in City Council Meetings." *Urban Affairs Review* (2018)

**VI. THE POLITICS OF RACE, IMMIGRATION, AND THE CITY**

**Week 13: November 17, 2021**

***Race and Urban Politics***

1. Pelissero, John P., David B. Holian, and Laura A. Tomaka. "Does political incorporation matter? The impact of minority mayors over time." *Urban Affairs Review* 36.1 (2000): 84-92.
2. Kerr, Brinck, et al. "When Does Politics Matter? A Reexamination of the Determinants of African-American and Latino Municipal Employment Patterns." *Urban Affairs Review* 49.6 (2013): 888-912.
3. An, Brian, Morris Levy, and Rodney Hero. "It’s Not Just Welfare: Racial Inequality and the Local Provision of Public Goods in the United States." *Urban Affairs Review* (2017)

**Week 14: November 24, 2021 (No Class)**

**Week 15: December 1, 2021**

***Immigration and Urban Politics***

1. Rocha, Rene R., and Tetsuya Matsubayashi. "Latino immigration and representation in local politics." *Urban Affairs Review* 49.3 (2013): 353-380.
2. Huang, Xi, and Cathy Yang Liu. "Welcoming cities: Immigration policy at the local government level." *Urban Affairs Review* 54.1 (2018): 3-32.
3. Gonzalez, Benjamin, Loren Collingwood, and Stephen Omar El-Khatib. "The politics of refuge: Sanctuary cities, crime, and undocumented immigration." *Urban Affairs Review* (2017)

**Final Exam Essay Due Wednesday, December 15, 2021 by 10:00pm**

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381