

## GOV2039: URBAN POLITICS SPRING 2020

Instructor: Dr. Chryl Laird  
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Classroom: Sills 117  
Class Meetings: Mon. & Wed. 1:15-2:40  
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10-11AM or by appt.  
Sign up for office hours: <https://claird.youcanbook.me/>

### **Course Introduction:**

This course will examine politics in American cities. In an age where public attention tends to be focused on national and international levels of politics this class will highlight the importance of local and urban institutions and behavior. In this context, we will discuss issues such as competition between cities and suburbs, the internal environment of suburban politics, state-city and federal-city relations, racial conflict and urban governance and the impact of private power on local decision-making. Throughout the class we will focus on the various individuals and institutions that shape the foundation of urban government including elected officials, municipal bureaucracies, political parties, political machines, interest groups, and the public. Additionally, multimedia like film, news, and television will be incorporated into the class to show how urban politics and government is depicted in our everyday lives and how it relates to the literature in the course.

### **Course Objectives:**

This course serves as a broad overview of urban politics in the United States. This course has several goals including:

1. To understand the basic structure and mechanisms of urban political institutions and how they operate in a modern city setting.
2. To understand the increasing suburban sprawl and the economic, social and political repercussion for those in the suburbs as well as those remaining in traditional urban areas.
3. To understand race and ethnic politics within the urban political and social climate, as well as the historical context in which they were established.
4. To further develop critical thinking, writing and speaking skills as they apply to course material.

### **Required Textbooks**

The required textbooks are available at the online bookstore: <http://www.chegg.com/bookstore/bowdoin>

1. *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America 9<sup>th</sup> edition* by Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom
2. *Segregation by Design: Local Politics and Inequality in American Cities* by Jessica Trounstein

I will also be posting required readings on the Blackboard website for the course.

### **Student Assistance**

I want my students to do well in this course. I am open to answering questions, clarifying materials, offer suggestions for studying, assisting with paper writing and addressing any concerns you may have about the course. I have assigned office hours listed in the syllabus and when my schedule allows, by appointment. Sign up for office hours here: <https://claird.youcanbook.me/> Questions and concerns can also be raised in class and I encourage you to do so.

### **Classroom Behavior**

In class discussions will be a central part of this course. These discussions will be based on the assigned readings as well content brought up in lecture. I believe that these discussions can benefit students in a variety of different ways. Students will not only enhance their critical thinking skills but they will also be exposed to alternative opinions related to a particular issue. Students will have to learn how to defend their view in a rational way when presented with an opposing view. Many of these issues could be considered controversial and/or sensitive. Students should feel free to express their opinions. At the same time, we must remember to respect one another and maintain a constructive and civil dialogue. If you are unable to engage in conversation in this manner you will be dismissed from the discussion. I will post power point lectures on blackboard after any lectures so that you may have access at a later point.

### **Academic Integrity and Honor Code**

I expect all students to abide by the Bowdoin Academic Honor Code. If you have any concerns or questions about how to cite work appropriately, please consult me or a reference librarian. Further information can be found at: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml>

### **Disability Services**

Students who have documented learning disabilities with the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs may be entitled to various accommodations. It is your responsibility to initiate with me any conversion over accommodations. Further information can be found at: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/accommodation-policy.shtml>.

### **Writing Services:**

I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Project @ Bowdoin. Getting feedback benefits all writers! Trained writing consultants can help with any writing, multimedia project, or oral presentation. During one-on-one consultations, you can work on everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. Bring your assignment description, and a few goals, to the consultation! For more information, or to make an appointment please visit: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-project/>

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

<b>Assignments &amp; Exams</b>	<b>Grade Percentage</b>
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Recorded Reactions (5)	15%
Final Paper	35%
Participation	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Assignments that are granted late submission will lose 1/3 letter grade within the first 8 hours. Each additional 8 hours results in another 1/3 letter grade reduction. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for emergencies or health challenges that are documented by the College administration (the Dean's office).

## Final Grade Scale

This is the scale that I will use to determine your final grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage
A	≥ 92.5	B-	≥ 79.5	D+	≥ 66.5
A-	≥ 89.5	C+	≥ 76.5	D	≥ 62.5
B+	≥ 86.5	C	≥ 72.5	D-	≥ 59.5
B	≥ 82.5	C-	≥ 69.5	F	< 59.5

If you have chosen to take the class as Credit/D/F, I will only grant a Credit grade if the student has completed all of the work for the class.

## Exams

The exams are assessments of your knowledge of the course material. The exams are take-home. No coursework will be scheduled on exam day so that time will Make-up exams will only be available for excused circumstances with documentation. **Exams are open book but not collaborative. The must be completed on your own.** If collaboration is suspected, I will bring this to the College as a possible violation of the honor code. **Emailed copies of the exam will not be accepted.**

## Recorded Reactions

Recorded reactions are audio file reactions to the readings for the week. You are to complete these prior to the week in which we will be discussing the readings. You should upload your audio file on by 11:00AM on Monday to Blackboard. You are to complete 5 recorded reactions over the course of the semester. **Once the material has been discussed in class, a late submission for that content will not be accepted.**

## Final Paper

The final paper will be a 8-10 page research paper. You are to write a scholarly paper on a topic of your choice related to urban politics. The paper should be well researched using primary and/or secondary sources. You should also incorporate some course content. The papers should include a research question, thesis, analyze evidence that supports the thesis, and end with a conclusion that considers the significance and limitations of the analysis. A portion of your grade for the paper will be based on your class presentation as well as your paper proposal. Further details about the final paper will be provided later in the semester. If the paper is submitted after the deadline, the late policy will apply. **Emailed copies of the final paper will not be accepted**

## Participation

I will also be grading you on in-class participation. During class discussion, I will be taking note of students that participate. The assessment will be based on your participation throughout the entire semester.

### Pop Quizzes

Pop Quizzes will be administered if it becomes apparent that students are not doing course readings. These pop quizzes will count towards your daily participation grade. **There are no make-ups for pop quizzes.**

### Attendance Policy

Your attendance record will also be as a way to assess your participation. You are expected to attend every class. I will spot check attendance during class. **You will be permitted 1 unexcused absences.** Please don't email me about why you are using an unexcused absence. **For every additional absence there will be an automatic 1/3 letter grade deduction from your overall course grade (ex: A to A-) unless provided with official documentation from the College. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out the work that was missed from your other classmates.**

### Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be at the discretion of the instruction. You will be notified of these opportunities if they become available.

### Tentative Schedule

**(Course readings and content are subject to change at the discretion of the professor)**

Weeks	Date	Readings/Content
1	Jan 22	Introduction and Syllabus
2	Jan 27	<i>City Politics</i> Ch. 1 & 2 WATCH: The Other Half Revisited (Bowdoin Library Streaming)
	Jan 29	<i>City Politics</i> Ch. 3 Blackboard: Erie Chapter 1-“The Irish and the Big City Machines” pp.1-25
3	Feb 3	<i>City Politics</i> Chapter 4 Blackboard: Erie “Declining Resources” pgs. 150-156 and Erie “White Ethnics pp161-165 WATCH: Triangle Fire (Bowdoin Library Streaming)
	Feb 5	<i>City Politics</i> Ch. 5 Blackboard: Roediger: Chapter 7-“Irish-American Workers and White Racial formation in the Antebellum United States” pp 133-156
4	Feb 10	<i>City Politics</i> Ch. 6
	Feb 12	<i>Segregation by Design</i> Chapter 1-3
5	Feb 17	<i>Segregation by Design</i> Chapters 4-6
	Feb 19	<i>Segregation by Design</i> Chapters 7-10
6	Feb 24	<b>EXAM #1</b>
	Feb 26	<i>City Politics</i> Chapter 7 pp.182-183 WATCH: The Pruitt-Igoe Myth (Bowdoin Library Streaming) WATCH: 70 Acres In Chicago: Cabrini Green (Bowdoin Library Streaming)

7	Mar 2	<i>City Politics</i> Chapter 8 “People Places: The Buildings Model Cities Built”: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twNBo5nqUzI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twNBo5nqUzI</a> “Model City”: <a href="https://youtu.be/UxzSJGs6yfM">https://youtu.be/UxzSJGs6yfM</a>
	Mar 4	<b>Paper Proposals Due Mar 4 by 11:59PM</b>
<b>8 &amp; 9</b>	<b>Mar 9-18</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
10	Mar 23	<i>City Politics</i> Chapter 9 “Making Sense of Space”: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0qOD0l9dbQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0qOD0l9dbQ</a>
	Mar 25	<i>City Politics</i> Ch. 14 LISTEN: This American Life: Harold <a href="https://www.thisamericanlife.org/84/harold">https://www.thisamericanlife.org/84/harold</a>
11	Mar 30	WATCH: Let The Fire Burn (Bowdoin Video Streaming)
	Apr 1	-WATCH: “Hers to Lose: A Look at Christine Quinn’s Failed Campaign for Mayor” <a href="https://youtu.be/68NOox_0ukA">https://youtu.be/68NOox_0ukA</a> -WATCH: V103 Interview of Mayoral Candidates Keisha Lance Bottoms and Mary Norwood <a href="https://youtu.be/4vb2y8JLgfM">https://youtu.be/4vb2y8JLgfM</a> -Holman (2013) “Sex and the City: Female Leaders and Spending on Social Welfare Programs in the U.S.”
12	Apr 6	<i>City Politics</i> Chapter 11 Blackboard: “Is Urban Sprawl a Problem” pp 281-291
	Apr 8	<i>City Politics</i> Chapter 12
<b>13</b>	<b>Apr 13</b>	<b>EXAM #2</b>
	Apr 15	<i>City Politics</i> Chapter 13 Blackboard: Florida: “The Rise of the Creative Class: Why Cities w/o Gays and Rock Bands are Losing the Economic Development Race”
14	Apr 20	<i>The New Urban Crisis</i> Ch. 1-3 WATCH: Class Divide (Bowdoin Video Streaming)
	Apr 22	Swope “Rising Seas: Are Cities Prepared for the Growing Threat”
15	Apr 27	Katel “Housing the Homeless”
	Apr 29	<b>Paper Presentations Due to Blackboard by 8AM</b> <b>STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</b>
16	May 4	<b>STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</b>
	May 6	<b>STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</b>

**Final Paper Due Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30PM (Registrar’s Final Exam Time)**