Urban Politics (POS 6146)  
Fall 2022  
Dr. Sharon D. Austin  
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The University of Florida

**Office Information:** 203 Anderson Hall, (352) 392-0262, polssdw@ufl.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:40am-1:40pm or by appointment

**Course Description:**  
  
This course will examine several political and public policy issues in urban cities. We will discuss issues such as downtown development, environmental justice, gentrification and urban housing issues, immigration, mayoral elections and governance, political incorporation theories, the city/suburbanization divide, the politics of urban education, urban policing, and urban revitalization efforts. The class has both an undergraduate and a graduate section. Also, I reserve the right to change the information included on the syllabus if necessary. Finally, keep in mind that we will discuss some very emotionally charged topics like the impact of the 2022 *Dobbs* decision (that overturned *Roe v. Wade* in cities, the 2022 Buffalo mass shooting, the 2022 Uvalde school shooting, crime, and police brutality. All opinions are welcome.  
  
**Course Objectives:**

1. Examine the major challenges local political officials encounter in urban cities.
2. Detail the manner in which urban political actors pursue economic development while at the same time maintaining neighborhoods.
3. Analyze the manner in which urban cities operate (i.e., their governance).
4. Examine significant political and policy issues in urban America.

**The Three Required Textbooks:**

Sharon D. Wright Austin.2018. *The Caribbeanization of Black Politics: Race, Group Consciousness, and Political Participation in America* New York: State University of New York Press.

Evelyn Simien, editor. 2022. *Historic Firsts in U.S. Elections: Trailblazing Candidates in Gubernatorial, Congressional, and Mayoral Campaigns* New York: Routledge.

Candis Watts Smith and Christina M. Greene, eds. 2019. *Black Politics in Transition: Immigration, Suburbanization, and Gentrification* New York: Routledge.

**The Reserve Articles** can be found on the Course Reserves link on canvas.

**Your Grade will be Based on:**  
  
**1) Attendance, Participation, and Weekly Discussion Questions (25%)**

Class participation and attendance are extremely important in this seminar.  Beginning on Tuesday September 6th, upload at least one discussion question from each reading to canvas so that we can discuss them in class. The questions must be uploaded onto canvas before class (before 11am, but preferably the day before each class).   I will grade the questions at the end of each week. The rubric for this assignment (and all of the others) can be found on canvas.

**2) Issue presentation (30%): Due November 3rd**

Each class member will make an issue presentation examining an urban politics issue from several perspectives. See the class schedule for possible topics and keep in mind that you don’t have to address a topic we’re discussing this semester. The presentation may include websites, short videos, concepts from scholarly articles or organizational reports, PowerPoint slides, photos, etc. The goal is to help you understand the importance of an urban issue, so you will have a deeper understanding of it. The presentation may discuss the issue’s history, impacts, implications, etc. The presentations should be approximately 20 minutes in length.

**3) Issue presentation outline (5%): Due October 18th**

Provide a one or two page, typed, double-spaced description of the issue you will address. I will provide advice and feedback. Please address the following questions: What is the issue? Why is it important? What are the problems associated with this issue? How should it be addressed (i.e., possible solutions)? Also, provide an approximately one page list of sources for your presentation.

**4) City research project paper (30%): Due December 13th**

This assignment requires an analysis of an American city of your choice in a research paper. The goal is to describe historical, physical, cultural, political, and economic characteristics of the chosen city, along with current issues, challenges, and initiatives. The analysis should use specific concepts from course readings and discussions. You can also include additional sources. The city should have a population in excess of 100,000.

In the paper provide the following: Its history, governmental structure, current mayor and political actors, major issues/conflicts confronting the city in the modern era (since the 1970s), tactics politicians have used to address these issues, tactics city residents or community activists have used to address these issues, resolution of these issues, and anything else that is of interest.

The paper should range from 10-15 page double-spaced (exclusive of tables, photos, lists, and references) that presents fully developed findings and specific, cited connections with course concepts.  A well-developed paper may include scholarly sources (books and articles), reports from agencies and organizations, and credible websites.

Use parenthetical citations in the paper that include the person’s last name, year of publication, and page number-i.e., (Wright, 2020, 20).  Include a Bibliography page at the end of the paper that lists your sources.  The sources can be formatted according to the Chicago Manual of Style, M.L.A., or the American Psychological Association (A.P.A.) format.  See the sources in the textbooks for examples.  Also, submit your papers through turnitin.com.

**5) City research project presentation (10%): Due December 13th**

Summarize the main points of your paper in your PowerPoint presentation that is no more than 20 minutes in length (approximately 15 slides). A brief discussion of the papers will take place at the end of the class in which you present your paper. Upload your presentations before the due date.

**Feedback**

I will grade each assignment and record your grade on canvas within a week after it is completed. I will also provide information each week about your class participation.

**Grading Scale:**  
94-100 A 90-93 A- 87-89 B+ 84-86 B 80-83 B- 77-79 C+

74-76 C 70-73 C- 67-69 D+ 64-66 D 60-63 D- Below 60 E

A C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.

**Disabilities Statement:**

Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Dean of Student’s office, Disability Resource Center. The Dean of Student’s office will provide documentation, which the student will then give to the instructor. For more information, see [HTTP://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](https://mail.ufl.edu/OWA/redir.aspx?C=2cb007bd128b47548756116534ed7741&URL=HTTP%3a%2f%2fwww.dso.ufl.edu%2fdrc)  

**Academic Dishonesty:**  
  
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code can be accessed at the link below and specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. [<https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>]

**Counseling Services:**

For help from the university counseling services and mental health services, call (352) 392-1575, see <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, or call the University Police Department [(35) 392-1111] or 9-1-1 for emergencies. You can also find help at the U Matter We Care site [<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>].

**Course Evaluation:**

At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. We will evaluate the class on the last day.

**Class Schedule:**

Introduction: Mayoral Leadership

8-25 Introduction to the Class

8-30 Reserve Reading:

Shifting Boundaries and Splintering Movements Abortion Rights in the Feminist and New Right Movements

9-1 Reserve Readings:

A Buffalo Saber to the Socialist Heart

Watch MOVE Bombing Documentary (55 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9IHYZYc_38>

9-6 Reserve Readings:

The Philadelphia Move Incident as an Anomaly in Models of Mayoral Leadership

9-8 Textbook Reading:

*The Caribbeanization of Black Politics*, chapter 3 (Chicago Politics chapter)

9-13 NO CLASS (American Political Science Association Meeting in Montreal)

Urban Policing

9-15 **Today, we will meet online at the same link that I use for online office hours which is [**[**https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5186400829**](https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5186400829)**].**

Reserve Readings:

Accountable Autonomy: Toward Empowered Deliberation in Chicago Schools and Policing

I Will Be Out There Every Day Strong: Protest Policing and Future Activism Among Ferguson and Baltimore Protesters

Seattle and Portland Protests Highlight Generational Tensions in Black Lives Matter Movement

How Do Cities Operate?

9-20 Textbook readings:

*The Caribbeanization of Black* Politics, chapter 5 (New York City chapter)

*Black Politics in Transition*, chapter 2

Reserve Readings:

From Encampments to Hotspots: The Changing Policing of Homelessness in New York City

9-22 Textbook reading:

*Historic Firsts*, chapter 5

Reserve Readings:

Governing Without Government: Nonprofit Governance in Detroit and Flint

9-27 Reserve Readings:

The Significance of Race in Urban Politics: The Limitations of Regime Theory

The City as a Growth Machine: Toward a Political Economy of Place

Urban Development and the Growth with Equity Framework: The National Football League Stadium in Downtown Los Angeles

The Role of Governors in Urban Politics

9-29 Textbook Reading:

*Historic Firsts*, chapter 2

Reserve Readings:

Searching for a New Brand: Reimagining a More Diverse Orlando

The Importance of the Death and Life of Great American Cities

DeSantis vs. Disney Q&A

10-4 **No discussion questions are due.**

NO CLASS (Study Abroad Fair is on the North Lawn of the Reitz Union)

10-6 Reserve Readings:

Governors and the Development Regime in New Orleans

The Failure of the Nonregime: How Katrina Exposed New Orleans as a Regimeless City

Housing Policies

10-11 Textbook Readings:

*Black Politics in Transition*, Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8

10-13 Textbook readings:

*Historic Firsts*, chapter 6

Reserve Readings:

Growth Control and Electoral Politics: The Triumph of Urban Populism in San Francisco

Environmental Justice

10-18 **Issue Presentation Outlines Due**

Reserve Readings:

Anatomy of Environmental Racism and the Environmental Justice Movement

Asian American Politics in Oakland: The Rise of Mayor Jean Quan

Politically Unhealthy: Flint’s Fight Against Poverty, Environmental Racism, and Dirty Water

The Battle Over Liquor Stores in South Central Los Angeles

Immigration and Multicultural Cities

10-20 Textbook readings:

*Historic Firsts*, chapter 3

*Black Politics in Transition*, chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4

10-25 **No discussion questions are due.**

Issue Presentations by Graduate Students

10-27 **No discussion questions are due.**

Issue Presentations by Graduate Students

11-1 **No discussion questions are due.**

Issue Presentations by Graduate Students

Urban Crime and Poverty

11-3 NO CLASS (Meeting in Toronto)

11-8 \***Issue Presentations Due and No discussion questions are due.**

Today, we will meet online at the same link that I use for online office hours [<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/5186400829>]

Textbook readings:

*The Caribbeanization of Black* Politics, chapter 4 (Miami chapter)

Broken Windows and Crime in Development Challenged Urban Areas: Evidence from Jackson, Mississippi

11-10 Reserve readings:

Policing the Future, Disrupting Urban Policy Today. Predictive Policing, Smart City, and Urban Policy in Memphis, Tennessee

Urban Education

11-15 Textbook Readings:

*The Caribbeanization of Black* Politics, Chapter 2 (Boston chapter)

*Historic Firsts*, chapter 4

Reserve Reading:

After state report, Mayor Wu drafts plan for ‘immediate’ changes for BPS through DESE partnership

Public Opinion About Gun Control Post-Sandy Hook

The Uvalde, Texas School Shooting Massacre

11-17 **No Discussion Questions Due After Today.**

Discussion Continued of Urban Education readings

11-22 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)

11-24 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)

11-29 City Research Project Presentations by Graduate Students

12-1 City Research Project Presentations by Graduate Students

12-6City Research Project Presentations by Graduate Students

12-13 **City Research Project Papers and Presentations Due**