

Urban Politics (POLS 2220)

Meets MWF 1:10 2:00

Instructor: Prof. Bob Cropf

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Title: Urban Politics: Transformations and Challenges in American Cities

Course Description:

This course explores the evolving landscape of American cities, a topic that has garnered renewed interest in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Major urban centers such as New York City and Los Angeles have faced significant challenges during this period, prompting us to reevaluate the future of urban politics and, by extension, the future of the nation. This is particularly pertinent given that, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 80% of Americans reside in urban areas, a trend expected to continue despite the pandemic's impact.

Our exploration begins with a critical question: Are American cities experiencing a renaissance or facing decline? This overarching query leads us to examine various dimensions that shape the future of urban spaces and their inhabitants. We will delve into why cities, historically the hubs of jobs and economic opportunities, attract corporations like Amazon seeking to establish headquarters in urban rather than rural settings. This course will investigate the enduring role of

analysis, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics shaping American urban politics today.

Required Reading:

Donovan, Smith, Osborn, and Mooney (DSOM). 2015. *State and Local Politics: Institutions and Reform: The Essentials*. 4th ed.

Levine, Myron. *Urban Politics: Cities and Suburbs in a Global Age*.

Weekly Reading Assignments:

Unit 1: 1/16, 1/18 (Levine Preface & Chapter 1; DSOM Introduction & Chapter 1)

Unit 2: 1/23, 1/25 (Levine Chapter 2; DSOM Chapter 2)

Unit 3: 1/30, 2/1 (Levine Chapter 3; DSOM Chapter 3)

Unit 4: 2/6, 2/8 (Levine Chapter 4; DSOM Chapter 4)

Unit 5: 2/23, 2/15 (Levine Chapter 5; DSOM Chapter 5)

Unit 6: 2/20, 2/22 (Levine Chapter 6; DSOM Chapter 6)

Unit 7: 2/27, 2/29 (Levine Chapter 7); DSOM Chapter 7

3/5 (midterm review), Mid-term Exam Released 3/6 (midterm due by 11:59 pm on 3/8)

Spring Break (3/11 - 3/15)

Unit 8: 3/19, 3/21 (Levine Chapter 8; DSOM Chapter 8)

Unit 9: 3/26 (Levine Chapter 9; DSOM Chapter 9)

Easter Break (3/28)

Unit 10: 4/2, 4/4 (Levine Chapter 10; DSOM Chapter 10)

Unit 11: 4/9, 4/11 (Levine Chapter 11; DSOM Chapter 11)

Unit 12: 4/16, 4/18 (Levine Chapter 12; DSOM Chapter 12)

Unit 13: 4/23, 4/25 (DSOM: Chapters 13 and 14)

Unit 14: 4/30, 5/2 (DSOM Chapter 15)

Final Exam (online due 5/12 by 11:59 pm)

aligns with the university's mission of service to all communities and dedication to social justice.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	

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<https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/academic-integrity-policy.pdf>.

Title IX

