

**URBAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
(EPOLS470G)  
SPRING 2021  
HYBRID: ZOOM MEETING TUESDAYS 6:00 PM-8:30<sup>1</sup>**

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Email: [m-placide@wiu.edu](mailto:m-placide@wiu.edu) allow 24 to 48 hours for a response

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 1-3 PM and by appointment

Virtual Meeting via Google Meet<sup>2</sup>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course will examine the origins, growth, present condition and future direction of urban government and politics in the United States. While this course is designed to provide an overview of government and its delivery of local services, we will also explore urban issues that produce urban policy. These contemporary issues include urban planning, poverty, housing, health, welfare, race relations, community planning and participation. Completing this course, you can expect to attain a broad knowledge of urban government and politics through critical examination of urban policy issue, which includes dimensions of the problem and alternative solutions. Graduate students are expected in the completion of this course to write an urban policy issue brief.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Coe, C. (2009). *Handbook of Urban Services: A Basic Guide for Local Governments*. Routledge Publishing, New York. **ISBN: 13: 9780765622945**

*Urban Issues: Selections From CQ Researchers*. (2017). Sage/CQ Press, Thousand Oaks, CA.  
**ISBN: 978-1-5063-4361-7**

Other assigned readings will be available at Western Online.

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<sup>1</sup> First meeting we will determine the number of times to meet via Zoom

<sup>2</sup> Email me ahead of time so I can set-up the connection on Google Meet or Zoom

## HYBRID/ONLINE COURSE

This course is a hybrid which means we meet one day of the week via Zoom (Tuesdays, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM) the assignments are available online at Western Online...basically it is virtual! The course outline indicates the curriculum is **divided into eight modules**. To participate in this course, students you must regularly check your email, announcements and make use of Western Online. This course is designed for you to gain access to Western Online on any computer connected to the internet. **Inabilities to access Western Online because of technical malfunctions are NOT ACCEPTABLE reasons for not completing assignments.**

In general, **assignments will be opened by Monday morning (12:00 AM) and you will have thirteen days (13) ending on [every other Sunday @11:59 PM] to complete all the assignments and exams listed.** Once the window to the module closes after 11:59 PM you will not be able to submit assignments. Please note: While this hybrid course has a time and day to meet via Zoom, this course is designed where you may complete the assignments, exams, and discussions independently.

I will be available via email, cell phone and virtual office (Google Meet or Zoom) I will also post updates to the course using the ANNOUNCEMENT setting at Western Online—make sure you check periodically.

## Course Evaluation

Students, you will demonstrate learning through the following participations in threaded posts/class discussions, performance on exams, written assignments and final written projects. Because this is a blended course (undergraduates and graduates) certain assignments will be different for each group.

### **Written Assignments (300 points total)**

There are six (6) written assignments. For each module you will complete an assignment related to the material covered in that module. These assignments are designed to get you engaged with related theories and practices of Urban. Government and Politics. **Modular written assignments are worth 50 points each.**

### **Discussion Board (240 points)**

There are eight (8) online discussion. For each module you will participate in a discussion board. These forums are designed to get you to critically thinking The specific discussion board guidelines, as well as a rubric for grading, are posted at Western Online. **Discussion board assignments are worth 30 points each.**

**Exams (Online Quizzes- 120 points Midterm Exam-100 points)**

- a. **Online Quizzes:** Each module will have online quizzes associated with the readings. They will focus on terminology and concepts in a format of true/false, multiple choice. Online quizzes are timed roughly 60 to 75 minutes. **Online quizzes are worth 20 points each.**
- b. **Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam is an in-depth exercise in a case study format to measure your overall understanding of the readings, discussions, written exercises, and quizzes. The exam will consist of a list of terminology and questions. Undergraduates students may work together on the exam as a team (I actually encourage it and will provide an opportunity for you to communicate with each other). Graduate students must complete the exam individually. **Midterm exam is worth 100 points.**

**Policy Brief/Annotated Bibliography—100 points**

Undergraduate Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is an organized list of sources (books, articles, etc.) that describes and evaluates the quality, relevance, and authority of an entry. This exercise will serve you with the purpose to understand research literature, describe items on a topic of interest, and explore a topic for further research. For this assignment, you will write 10 annotated bibliographies on an instructor approved topic related to urban policy. More information will be distributed on the second week of the semester on the proper set-up of the annotated bibliography assignment.

Graduate Policy Brief

Graduate students must complete a policy brief. Details will be given the second week of class in which graduate students must choose an urban policy topic that must be instructor approved. The research assignment will include written paper at least 20 pages.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Course Evaluation	Total Points
Online Discussions	8 @30 = <b>240</b>
Written Assignments	6 @ 50 = <b>300</b>
Exams	6 quizzes @ 20= 120 1 midterm @ <u>100</u> <b>240</b>
Final Paper/Annotation	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>860</b>

To determine your grade, divide your total points earned by total points of the course materials, multiplied by 100.

Example: Your Total Points Earned =850

Total Points of Course Materials =860

$$850/860 = .98 \times 100 = 98\%$$

## **Grading Scale**

### Grade Scale for Graduates

Grades are out of 100 and then weighted to the percentages above. Graduate students are not graded on a plus/minus scale, therefore, 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D,  $\leq$ 59 F

### Grades Scale for Undergraduates

100-93 = A, 92-90 = A-, 89-86 = B+, 85-83 = B, 82-80 = B-, 79-76 = C+, 75-73 = C, 72-70 = C-, 69-66 = D+, 65-63 = D, 62-60 = D-,  $\leq$ 50 = F

## **Student Expectations**

### Western Online Familiarity

- Because this course is totally web based, you should be familiar with Western Online and its features, particularly the discussion board.
- Please refer questions about Western Online and other IT questions/issues to WIU Utech at (309) 298-2704.

### Online Decorum

- Student use standard English in group discussions [avoid on-line jargon, i.e., lol, lmao]
- Please note: technological failure will not be accepted as an excuse for missed deadlines. The WIU IT has a back-up plan in case of technology malfunction.

### Submission and Formatting Guidelines

- Submitted work [i.e., papers and written assignments] must be typed, double spaced, have 12-point font (Times New Roman), one-inch margins on all sides and conform to APA guidelines.

## **Accommodations:**

In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies faculty of a specific need for accommodation. It is imperative that students bring such needs to the faculty member's attention, as faculty is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular student needs. Students who require special assistance in emergency evacuations should contact their faculty

to discuss emergency procedures. Contact Disability Support Services (309) 298-2512 for additional services.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in any shape or form. Academic misconduct is a serious offense and constitutes grounds for failing the course regardless of your grade on other assignments. Academic misconduct includes:

1. Cheating on exams: copying another student's answers.
2. Plagiarism including:
  - a. Submitting a paper someone else has written.
  - b. Copying directly from the book you read.
  - c. Using materials obtained via electronic sources without proper documentation.
  - d. Failure to properly document quotations used in your paper.

### **Incomplete Policy:**

In accordance with University policy, incompletes will only be given in rare instances where you cannot complete the course requirements during the semester—due to circumstances beyond your control. You must keep me informed regarding circumstances in a timely manner. However, the decision to allow an incomplete is at the discretion of the instructor.

For more information regarding academic misconduct and incomplete work refer to your student handbook at <http://www.wiu.edu/handbook/handbook/pdf>.

### **Title IX**

WIU values Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibiting sex discrimination, including, sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at (309) 298-1977 or anonymous online at [http://www.wiu.edu/equal\\_opportunity\\_and\\_access/request\\_form/index.php](http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php). If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX/php>.

## Course Schedule

**Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to alter or change the syllabus to fit the needs of students or the demands of curriculum objectives.**

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**Module 1**     **1/19—1/31**  
**Public Safety Part 1**  
READ:     *Coe: Handbook of Urban Services* (HUS) Chapters 1-4  
              *CQ Researcher: Urban Issues* (UI) Chapter 5  
DUE:        Written Assignment #1  
              Online Discussion #1  
              Quiz #1

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**Module 2**     **2/1—2/14**  
**Public Safety Part 2**  
READ:     HUS Chapters 5-7  
  
DUE:        Written Assignment #2  
              Online Discussion #2  
              Quiz #2

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**Module 3**     **2/15—2/28**  
**Public Works & Planning Services Part 1**  
READ:     HUS Chapters 8-10  
              UI Chapters 3-4  
  
DUE:        Written Assignment #3  
              Online Discussion #3  
              Quiz #3

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**Module 4**     **3/1—3/14<sup>3</sup>**  
**Public Works & Planning Services Part 2**  
READ:     HUS Chapters 11-13  
  
DUE:        Online Discussion #4  
              Mid-Term Exam

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<sup>3</sup> No written assignment or quiz this module

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<b>Module 5</b>	<b>3/15—3/28</b>
	<b>Policy: Race, Class and Ethnicity</b>
READ:	UI Chapters 8, 10, & 12
DUE:	Written Assignment #4 Online Discussion #5 Quiz #4

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<b>Module 6</b>	<b>3/29-4/11</b>
	<b>Housing the Homeless/Housing Discrimination</b>
READ:	UI Chapters 9 & 11
DUE:	Written Assignment #5 Online Discussion #6 Quiz #5

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<b>Module 7</b>	<b>4/12—4/25</b>
	<b>Race and Education</b>
READ:	UI Chapters 1-2
DUE:	Written Assignment #6 Online Discussion #7 Quiz #6

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<b>Module 8</b>	<b>4/26<sup>4</sup>—5/2</b>
	<b>Urban Governance</b>
READ:	Selected articles at Western Online
DUE:	Policy Brief (Graduate)/Annotated Bibliography (Undergraduate) Online Discussion #8 Quiz #7

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<sup>4</sup> Module 8 opens 1 week after module 7 to give time to complete