Most people in North America and Western Europe now live in cities. The local governments in these cities deal with many of the core issues affecting daily lives, ranging from economic development and housing to public transit and urban sprawl. As such, these cities are increasingly important sites of political activity. This course aims to give you the tools to better understand how urban political processes formulate responses to political conflict in different local and national settings. Why do many North American cities pursue economic growth above all other goals? How can community groups make their voices heard in cities? Is urban politics in North America and Western Europe truly democratic, or is it dominated by narrow groups of elites? In this course, we will discuss these questions and many more. The course will:

1. Introduce you to key ideas and theories in urban political analysis and explore how they can be applied in various countries. The course has a special focus on the United States, Canada, Britain, France, and Germany but it is not strictly limited to these countries.
2. Examine how contrasting national traditions and institutional structures shape the terrain of urban politics.
3. Investigate the role played in urban politics by politicians, business, and community actors, and compare how they operate in various settings.
4. Give you the opportunity to engage in debates about key urban policy issues.
5. Allow you to apply what you are learning to a detailed independent study of urban politics in a major city in North America or Western Europe.

**Prerequisites and Degree Planning:** You must have taken at least 1.0 full course equivalent in Political Science at the 2200 level in order to enroll for this course. Previous courses related to local politics and/or urban studies will be an asset but are not required. This course is a prerequisite for POL4210 Cities and Globalization and complements POL4211 Multilevel Governance.

**Course Organization:** This is a completely asynchronous online course, meaning that there is no scheduled class time. Weekly activities will consist of a combination of readings, pre-recorded lectures, quizzes, and online discussion forums. Each student will also select an
‘adopted city’ from the list below. Students will complete three short writing assignments and their final paper on their adopted city.

**Course Requirements:** The final grade for this course will be composed of four main elements.

1. **Small group discussion board participation.** Beginning in Week 2 of the course, the instructor will post discussion questions on OWL related to the assigned readings for each weekly topic. Student will be assigned as either a discussant or respondent to these questions on a rotating basis. The discussion board schedule will be determined early in the term. You are expected to participate actively in these discussion forums, as assigned. Your grade will be based on the quality of your contributions. Good contributions move the discussion in a meaningful and respectful direction.

2. **Short writing assignments on your adopted city.** In Week 2 of the course, you will choose an “adopted city” that you are interested in learning more about. Between Week 3 and Week 9 of the course, you will write a total of three 2-page (about 500 words) assignments on some aspect of politics in your adopted city. The questions for these assignments will be posted on OWL. Students may submit these assignments for the three weeks of their choosing. Content for these assignments will be based on your own research. These assignments must be written up in full sentence form and referenced according to the ASA style guide. You are strongly encouraged to keep a good record of your source materials, as they are likely to be of use to you in writing final paper.

3. **Quizzes.** Beginning in Week 2 of the course, there will be a short quiz associated with each weekly topic. These quizzes will be based on the assigned readings and pre-recorded lectures and will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the blank, and/or true or false questions. They are designed to ensure that students have properly understood the assigned readings. The quizzes will be posted and completed on OWL. The quizzes will only be available during a specified time window.

4. **Final paper.** Students must submit a 1,500-word paper by Monday, December 7th. Your task will be to identify the most pressing issue facing your adopted city and recommend a course of action for the municipal government to consider. (More details to be provided on OWL by early November.)

Here is a list of suggestions for “adopted” cities. You can also choose one that is not on the list, if you have the instructor’s approval. (The main concern is that you choose a city on which there is enough information available.) It’s possible for multiple students to adopt the same city, but if certain cities prove to be overwhelmingly popular, the instructor may have to implement a lottery system.

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<th>Halifax</th>
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Note: Overdue submissions will be penalized two percentage points for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late. Extensions will be granted only if written confirmation of any extenuating circumstances is provided.

Evaluation
1. Small group discussion board participation: 25%
2. Short writing assignments on your adopted city: 30% (3 x 10%)
3. Quizzes: 10%
4. Final paper: 35%

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Part I: Urban Politics in Comparative Perspective

Week 1 (Sept 8-11): Introduction: Why is Urban Politics Important?

Our first week include an overview of the structure, aims and requirements of the course. The instructor will also present some introductory thoughts on what urban politics is and why it might be important. The final order of business will be to assign students to discussion board participation groups. The reading listed below can be read after the class; in subsequent weeks, however, you are expected to complete the readings in advance of the class.


Week 2 (Sept 14-18): Local and Urban Politics: Differing National Traditions

* Choose your “adopted” city – via OWL *


Week 3 (Sept 21-25): Local Institutions and Local Leadership


**Week 4 (Sept 28-Oct 2) Local Elections and Political Parties**


**Week 5 (Oct 5-9): Governing Metropolitan Areas: Fragmentation, Consolidation, or Regional Governance?**


**Part II: Power in the City**

**Week 6 (Oct 12-16): The Community Power Debate: Who Governs?**


**Week 7 (Oct 19-23): Business and Pro-Growth Interests**


**Week 8 (Oct 26-30): Community Activism and Urban Social Movements**


**Fall Reading Week (Nov 2-8)**

**Week 9 (Nov 9-13): Bringing it Together: Urban Regimes and Governing Capacity**


Part III: Selected Issues in Urban Politics

**Week 10 (Nov 16-20) Group Conflict and Spatial Inequality**


Moskowitz, P.E. 2019. “Introduction” (pp. 1–10) and “Conclusion” (pp. 209–218) in How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for the Neighborhood. New York, NY: Bold Type Books.


**Week 11 (Nov 23-27) Austerity and Disasters**


**Week 12 (Nov 30-Dec 4) Local Autonomy and Central Government Intervention**


**Week 13 (Dec 7-9) Final Papers Due December 9th**
Prerequisite checking - the student’s responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

• the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,

• the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current Western Academic Calendar http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/)

"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work
Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

**Submission of Course Requirements**

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

**Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.
Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html for information on Medical Policy,

Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty’s academic counselling office.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

**Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com)."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html

**PLAGIARISM**

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms
of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to
you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History

August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

- The Registrar’s office can be accessed for Student Support Services at www.registrar.uwo.ca
- Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
  - https://westernusc.ca/your-services/
- Student Development Services can be reached at: http://sdc.uwo.ca/
- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western https://www.uwo.ca/health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Procedures for Requesting Academic Consideration**

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

  - For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
  - For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to
be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

• are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;

• are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;

• must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability. These students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability.

Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). These students should access support through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

**Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the [online Self-Reported Absence portal](#). This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

Students will be allowed:

• a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April;
• a maximum of one self-reported absence between May and August.

Any absences in excess of the number designated above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.

• The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;

• The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;

• The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;

• Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period;

• Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.

• students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a medical absence not covered by existing Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation, will be required to provide documentation in person to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in the form of a completed, signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence will be required to provide appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.