



## Metropolitan Problems (PADM 5307-060)

**Term:** Summer 1/2026

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**Office Hours:** (Monday & Wednesday 10am-12pm & by appointment)

**Course Dates:** June 1-July 3, 2026

**Course Times:** online

**Classroom:** n/a

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### Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is encouraged during the course, and appropriate acknowledgement is expected. Therefore, you can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work and also make an acknowledgement of how you used AI (to help develop an outline, locate peer-reviewed sources, etc.).

### Course Overview

Using case study as its principal methodology and moving from theoretical propositions to practical considerations, this course examines an in-depth study of the conditions underlying major metropolitan social problems confronted by public administrators. The course will examine challenges associated with metropolitan problems involving poverty, economic development, housing, education, and crime. transportation, housing, and crime.

## Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you will be able to:

- Summarize the importance of the need for awareness of the implications of poverty for the effective public manager.
- Explain the nuances of economic development from a public administrative perspective to improve the quality of life for the community served.
- Connect how housing and education are related to economic development for the thriving community.
- Compare and contrast the interconnectedness of poverty, economic development, education, housing, and crime for the public administrator.
- Develop and argument for the challenges public managers experience among awareness, vision, and enactment of strategies to minimize metropolitan problems in the communities they serve.

## Required Textbooks and Readings

**Primary Textbook:** Euchner, C. C., & McGovern, S. J. (2003). *Urban policy reconsidered: Dialogues on the problems and prospects of American cities*. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group. ISBN: 0-415-94470-8. This book is located in Canvas and also through the library. There is no cost to you.

[Urban Policy Reconsidered: Dialogues on the Problems and Prospects of American Cities](#)

- Total Estimated costs of required course materials: \$0.00

## Course Structure

This is an online course where you are expected to remain current. There are specific activities that are due throughout the week. Devote your attention to the materials in the course modules. There will also be several **videos** for you to watch, along with **supplemental articles** located in the weekly modules in Canvas. These items will be related to the selected metropolitan problem for each week. The videos will be along the lines of TEDx Talks and YouTube videos and the articles will be from credible news sources that highlight the problem we are studying with recent news reporting stories. These videos and news articles will be used as material to base your weekly learning activities/assignments.

## Tips for Success in this Course

1. **Participate.** I invite you to engage deeply, ask questions, and talk about the course content with your classmates. You can learn a great deal from discussing ideas and perspectives with your peers and professor. Participation can also help you articulate your thoughts and develop critical thinking skills.
2. **Manage your time.** I get it—students usually juggle a lot, and I know you've got commitments beyond this class. Still, doing your best often means carving out enough dedicated time for coursework. Try scheduling specific blocks of time and ensure you have enough room to finish assignments, allowing extra space for any tech issues that might pop up.
3. **Login regularly.** I recommend that you log in to Canvas several times a week to view announcements, discussion posts and replies to your posts.
4. **Do not fall behind.** This class moves at a quick pace and each week builds on the previous class content. If you feel you are starting to fall behind, check in with the instructor as soon as possible so we can

troubleshoot together. It will be hard to keep up with the course content if you fall behind in the pre-work or post-work.

5. **Use Canvas notification settings.** Pro tip! Canvas can ensure you receive timely notifications in your email or via text. Be sure to enable notifications to be sent instantly or daily. ([Canvas Notification Guide](#))
6. **Ask for help if needed.** If you are struggling with a course concept, reach out to me and your classmates for support.

## Graded Course Requirements Information

### Getting Started Activities

In the “Getting Started” module there are three activities for you to complete---preferably prior to the first day of the course, if that is not possible. Then please complete them by the Wednesday of the first week. One activity is simply for you to post an appropriate picture of yourself and have the name you prefer to be addressed associated with the picture on the “Padlet.” Please make it an acceptable picture that you would not mind your employer or future employer seeing. The second item is to take the “Getting Started” module quiz---almost all the information in the quiz is located in this syllabus. Take the quiz until you receive 100%. These activities are worth 5% of your total grade. These will help you get to know the structure of the course and allow me and others in the course an opportunity to get to know you.

### Lecture Quizzes

A short lecture video with an embedded quiz will accompany each chapter. The purpose of the lecture is to provide you an overview of the main concepts you will be reading in the chapters. Each week you will have one video lecture. Remember, each lecture has some embedded questions. So, please devote your attention to the information and take notes so you are prepared for the questions. You must watch the lecture and have all the quizzes for the week completed (cannot watch the lecture without taking the quiz) by Tuesday at 11:59pm each week.

### Weekly Tests

There is a ten (10) question multiple choice test that is related to the video lecture and reading. I encourage you to complete the test shortly after you watch the lecture and complete the reading. These will also help you prepare for the weekly activity (discussion or written paper assignment) and the final exam, along with gaining a better understanding of the information contained in the lecture and your reading assignment. These are due by Wednesday at 11:59pm each week.

### Discussions

We will have some discussion board assignments this semester. The discussions will help you gain a deeper understanding of the material by thinking and writing about the topic, along with learning from others in the class. Adhering to the minimum requirements for each assignment will assist you maximize your grade. Thus, for the discussion board assignments make sure your initial post is at least 250 words. The minimum number of responses is for you to respond to at least two other students, however if you wish to maximize your grade (make at least one more reply—three or more students will maximize your points on the rubric). Also, you will want to ensure you include intext citations in each and every post you make (this means your initial post and all your replies). The intext citations must be compliant with the APA (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) documentation style. Lastly, ensure you post your initial post by Thursday no later than 11:59pm and your replies to other students are due not later than 11:59pm on Saturdays. The reason for the two deadlines on the discussion board assignments is to be respectful to all students in the course. I used to only have one deadline, but then some students had to wait on other student timelines to complete the assignment (several students waited until

the evening when the assignment was due to make all their postings). I also discovered having the two deadlines for discussion boards is considered a pedagogical best practice. Thus, now you are informed why there are the two deadlines for the discussion boards. Please make sure you make your initial post by Thursday night, no later than 11:59pm—others in the course will appreciate it. This will also provide you sufficient time to read and organize your thoughts for your replies.

## Writing Assignments

There will be some writing assignments during the semester that will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and application of the course concepts. You will be rated on your written skills (grammar, spelling, and diction), along with your analytical ability in connecting the course material to the assignment prompt. Each reflection paper is due on the Saturday by 11:59pm of the week each is assigned. These assignment help you think deeper about the content you learned and also enable me to assess your written communication skills. The comments I place on your submissions can also help you improve your thought processes and written communication skills to enhance the content for your semester paper.

## Semester Paper

Your paper for this semester is for you to develop an argument for the challenges public managers experience among awareness, vision, and enactment of strategies to minimize metropolitan problems in the communities they serve. In other words, you will develop an academic paper that interconnects the metropolitan problems we learned about this semester. You must not only cite (by paraphrasing) material from our textbook, but also incorporate additional scholarly sources. Bring in examples that you have identified in municipalities in the U.S. (it is acceptable to cite trustworthy news sources for your examples).

The structure of the paper will be as follows:

1. Use APA format. Use all requirements, refer to the APA (7<sup>th</sup> edition) located on the [Purdue OWL](#) (for assistance, direction, and guidance).
2. One-inch margins.
3. Double space.
4. Times New Roman with 12-point font.
5. Title page
6. Use at least ten (10) peer-reviewed sources---this is a minimum, so you should consider using additional scholarly sources that include government documents, think tank publications, credible news sources, etc. Keep in mind the textbook is NOT a peer-reviewed source, but you can (and likely should) use it in your paper (if you have questions about whether a source is peer-reviewed, please contact me). There is no page minimum, just make certain your paper is thorough.
7. Paraphrase your sources with in-text citations using the APA documentation style.
8. Reference page (title page and reference page are not part of the minimum page requirement).
9. Upload in a Word document (file ending in .doc or .docx) or pdf (file ending in .pdf).

Generally, when writing an academic paper you will not use the same informal type language you use during your daily conversations. Informal, conversational language, will negatively impact your grade.

## Final Exam

There will also be a 25-question, multiple choice final exam. The exam will be based on policy scenarios where you apply the knowledge you learned this semester. This exam will evaluate the knowledge you learned within a policy-based arena.

## Grading Structure

| Assignment                                                             | Percentage % |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Getting Started Activities                                             | 5%           |
| Lecture Quizzes (Embedded in the Lecture Video)                        | 10%          |
| Lecture Tests (Comprehension Assessment, 10 Multiple Choice Questions) | 10%          |
| Discussions                                                            | 10%          |
| Writing Assignments                                                    | 20%          |
| Semester Paper                                                         | 30%          |
| Final Exam                                                             | 15%          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                           | <b>100%</b>  |

- A - (90% or higher)
- B - (80 - 89%)
- C - (70 - 79%)
- D - (60 - 69%)
- F - (Below 60%)

## Late Work and Make-Up Exams:

Unfortunately, illnesses, deaths in the family, or other traumatic events are part of life. Such events are unwelcomed and because I understand how difficult these times are, if you contact me within 24 hours of the event **and** provide documentation, I will be happy to give you a make-up quiz or extend an assignment deadline.

The general rule is I will not accept any late assignments. Please pay particular attention to the due dates for each assignment, but remember to communicate with me when situations arise that compromise your ability to complete assignments on time.

## Attendance Policy:

This is an online course, but it is not a self-paced course. It is your responsibility to remain current. There are specific reading assignments and assessments that you are expected to complete on or before the due date/time. Of course exceptions of an emergency nature arise so please let me know if you cannot make the deadline for a particular assignment or be available for our zoom sessions.

## University Policies & Student Resources:

University policies and student resources are available on the University website and in Canvas under "Syllabus". (You may copy or print the following information to include in your syllabus or use the links provided below.)

- [University Policy](#)
- [Student Resources](#)

## Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates

### Module 1 (Week 1): Problem #1: Poverty

June 1-June 6

This is the first week of the semester and you should become acquainted with the course quickly. Then jump into the short lecture videos (remember they have embedded questions), then complete the reading associated with each chapter, then complete the weekly test that is related to the lecture and the reading, and finally complete the learning assessment for the weekly module. Think about your semester paper topic—Plan, develop an outline, gather at least ten peer-reviewed sources.

#### Assignments:

- Padlet posting in the Getting Started module due by June 1 at 11:59pm
- Getting Started module Quiz due by June 1 at 11:59pm
- Watch video lecture #1, which has embedded questions- due by June 2 at 11:59pm
- Read Euchner & McGovern (Chapter 2)
- Complete the weekly test, which is due by June 3 at 11:59pm
- Complete the learning activity for this module (Discussion Board). Initial posting due by Thursday night (June 4) and replies by Saturday night (June 6)

**\*\*\*\*\*June 4 is Census Day\*\*\*\*\***

### Module 2 (Week 2): Problem #2: Economic Development

June 7-13

Watch the lecture, complete the Chapter reading, the weekly test, along with a reflection paper. Also, begin researching and outlining your semester paper.

#### Assignments:

- Watch video lecture #2, which has embedded questions- due by June 9 at 11:59pm
- Read Euchner & McGovern (Chapter 3)
- Complete the weekly multiple choice test, which is due by June 10 at 11:59pm
- Complete the learning activity for this module (Reflection Paper) by Saturday night (June 13)

### **Module 3 (Week 3): Problem #3: Housing**

June 14-20

Hope you are enjoying the short lectures and the readings, along with the other learning activities. Stay current as it is the easiest way to be successful in the course. Keep your semester paper in your mind.

#### **Assignment:**

- Watch video lecture #3, which has embedded questions- due by June 16 at 11:59pm
- Read Euchner & McGovern (Chapter 4)
- Complete the weekly test, which is due by June 17 at 11:59pm
- Complete the learning activity for this module (Reflection Paper) by Saturday night (June 20)

### **Module 4 (Week 4): Problem #4: Education**

June 21-27

Everyone is making great progress, only a couple weeks to go. You should have a draft of your paper completed by now, so your last couple weeks of the course are less stressful. I am open to reviewing your draft if you want some constructive comments.

#### **Assignment:**

- Watch video lecture #4, which has embedded questions- due by June 23 at 11:59pm
- Read Euchner & McGovern (Chapter 5)
- Complete the weekly test, which is due by June 24 at 11:59pm
- Complete the learning activity for this module (Discussion Board). Initial posting due by Thursday night (June 25) and replies by Saturday night (June 27)

**\*\*June 24 is the last day to withdraw from the course with a “W”\*\***

## Module 5 (Week 5): Problem #5: Crime

June 28-July 3

This is the last week of the semester. One more lecture video, one last chapter to read, one last weekly test, along with finishing and submitting your semester paper.

### Assignment:

- Watch video lecture #5, which has embedded questions- due by June 30 at 11:59pm
- Read Euchner & McGovern (Chapter 6)
- Complete the weekly test, which is due by July 1 at 11:59pm
- Complete the final exam, which is due by Friday, July 3, no later than 11:59pm
- Submit semester paper and upload it by Friday, July 3, no later than 11:59pm

Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course page for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.

