

**University of Florida  
Department of Political Science  
Spring 2018**

**Carlos A. Suárez Carrasquillo, Ph.D.**

**Anderson Hall 210**

**Tuesdays 12:25-1:55, Wednesdays 3:00-3:30, Thursdays 10:00-10:30 and by  
appointment.**

**casuarez@ufl.edu**

**352-273-2362**

**Politics of Latin American Housing (POS 4931)**

Course Description

This course will consider how politics and policies can assist in shaping housing, cities, homelessness, and suburbia in Latin America. Some examples of class material will consider the early origins of modern cities, the development of suburbia, recent developments such as public housing, gentrification, and gated communities.

Course Objectives

Students will debate the common themes of Latin American housing politics; analyze how the field of political science has contributed to the understanding of housing in Latin America. Also students will analyze the contributions from other fields that have tried to address power dynamics in Latin America.

About the Syllabus

Based on the composition of the class, our progress discussing these issues, elements beyond our control, and student needs, this syllabus is flexible and may change. Throughout the semester, you will be notified of any changes that might emerge. During the first day of class the professor will read and explain this syllabus at length. It is the student's responsibility to understand the requirements for this class and asking all the appropriate questions about this document to the professor. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalogue.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance>.

Readings

The assigned texts are required and available at the UF Bookstore. It will be our source of discussion and used extensively. In addition, during the course the professor will offer required readings that will be available on our Canvas page identified by a C. This syllabus is a living document, and in case of changes in the readings students will be properly notified.

Class Text

Ward, Jiménez Huerta and Di Virgilio (eds) (2015). Housing Policy in Latin American Cities. New York: Routledge.

### Writing Requirements and Grade

The grade will be based on a four-page paper (15 points), a mid-term examination (25 points), Reaction Papers (25 points), a second exam (25 points), class attendance (5 points), and participation (5 points).

#### Reaction Papers (25 points)

Class members will be asked to submit via Canvas a one page, single spaced- reaction paper with comments, questions and/or observations based on the assigned readings for the upcoming week that could serve as points of discussion for the class. The professor will randomly grade six weeks, and out of those six reaction papers the five papers with the best grades will be used to calculate your grade. The reaction paper should not be a summary of the readings, but instead it should: *ask probing questions, propose what might come next, compare or contrast this reading or concepts to another paper or concepts we have discussed in class, highlight important implications of the work for understanding Latin American housing politics*. The rubric and specific details will be made available on Canvas.

#### Four Page Paper (15 points)

Students will read one of the optional books (see above) and address the questions offered by the professor. This five-page paper will rely only on the selected book as a source.

#### Midterm Exam (25 points)

The mid-term will be held during class hours. Blue books will be required and the student is expected to complete the exam during the exam period.

#### Second Exam (25 points)

The second exam will be due at the end of the semester. The format of the exam will be announced in a timely fashion during the semester.

#### Participation (5 points)

Students are expected to attend and be active components of the class and discussion. It is expected that by the end of the semester all students have participated by offering quality contributions. The rubric for participation will be posted on our Canvas page. If you do not feel comfortable by participating in class feel free to send me an email with your thoughts to [casuarez@ufl.edu](mailto:casuarez@ufl.edu).

#### Attendance (5 points)

The professor will take attendance either by roll book, canvas, or index card. Students are therefore allowed three absences from days of class without penalty. Any absence after the third one will be penalized by taking three points per missed class. A student who leaves the class before it is over will not be considered as present in terms of attendance. Written evidence will be required in order to justify absences. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of their number of absences during the semester. If a student has any questions about their attendance on a particular day, this issue should be brought up in writing no later than the following class.

### Grade scale

A	94 and above
A-	90-93
B+	87-89

B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
E	59 and below

The Canvas grade book will be updated as class assignments are graded. Please note that the grade book does not include the grades for Participation and Attendance.

#### On Timeliness

Students are expected to turn in their assigned work on time. If a student is not able to turn in their work on time they will have offer written evidence in order to justify the tardiness. If said evidence is not produced one letter grade will be deducted per day after due date.

#### Academic Honesty

An important component in academic work is recognizing one's work as well as others. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not allowed. **Any violations of the academic honesty policy will be vigorously pursued. All students are expected to adhere scrupulously to the University policy concerning academic honesty.** In order to respect this principle students are expected to abide by the Academic Honesty Policy. A copy of the Academic Honesty Policy can be found in the following link, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>. It is the student's responsibility to read and understand the policy. Following these guidelines will assure that original academic work will be recognized and celebrated.

#### Concerns with a Grade

In the case that a student disagrees with a grade that concern should be presented in writing. This statement should be handed in writing the next class day after receiving your grade. The merits of the concern will be evaluated taking into consideration how deeply the student is thinking about the subject at hand, and whether or not this student can provide textual evidence to justify their claim. After careful evaluation, I will notify the student about my decision and adjust the grade accordingly if applicable.

#### Incompletes

Students who have not completed the required class work will only be evaluated by the work that was turned in by the day it was due. Incompletes will only be awarded under exceptional circumstances. Incompletes will be given when students comply with the following conditions, (1) notifying the professor two weeks prior to the last day of class, (2) providing written evidence for the medical condition, or situation that has prompted the student to request an incomplete. The student and professor should agree upon a proper arrangement on how the missing work will be submitted. The student will have the following semester as the time period to complete the missing work; failure to do so will result in an E.

### Special Needs

Testing accommodations and other needs will be addressed for students with proper documentation. Please make sure to inform me of these needs in writing during the first week of class. Retroactive accommodations will not be considered. In case of questions about Disability Resource Center feel free to contact them at <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

### Classroom interaction

Respect is required at all times. Textual evidence is crucial when engaging in intelligent academic debates. Please make use of this tool when elaborating your arguments in the classroom. Refrain from comments that are not related to class discussion. Video or audio recording of the class is not allowed. The use of cell phones is prohibited; laptops will be allowed until disruptive to the class. The topics we discuss in this course may be controversial, and may touch upon deeply-held positions or beliefs held by you or your classmates. While I want to encourage open discussion, I also encourage you to consider how your interventions affect others. How we say something is often even more important than what we say; if you are struggling with how to articulate your questions or reactions to the readings please inform the professor.

### Course evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

### Course Outline

#### I. Introduction (1/9)

Review course syllabus

#### II. Public Policy (1/11)

Readings: Rasmussen, *Public Policy C*; Dye, *Policy Analysis C*.

#### III. Place, Space, Time, Politics (1/16-1/18)

Readings: Reading: Yi-Fu Tuan, *Language and the Making of Place C*; David Harvey, *Between Space and Time C*; Parkinson, *Place and Politics C*.

#### IV. Theoretical Considerations (1/23-1/25)

Readings: Judd, *Theorizing the City. C*; Pader, *Spaces of Hate C*.

### **Four Page Paper Questions Distributed (1/23)**

#### V. The Role of Planning and Planners (1/30-2/1)

Readings: Angotti and Irazábal, Planning Latin American Cities: Dependencies and “Best Practices” C; Josh Lerner, *Playing with Power: Participatory Planning Games in Rosario's Villas C*; Clara Irazábal and John Foley, *Reflections on the Venezuelan Transition from a Capitalist Representative to a Socialist Participatory Democracy C*.

VI. Urban Governance and Citizen Participation (2/6-2/8)

Serdült, Uwe, and Yanina Welp, *How Sustainable is Democratic Innovation? Tracking Neighborhood Councils in Montevideo C*; Tobias Franz, *Urban Governance and Economic Development in Medellín C*; Koch and Sánchez, *Participation without Power: The Failure of Citizen Participation in Barranquilla C*, Gilbert, *Urban Governance in the South C*.

**Four Page Paper Due (2/6)**

VII. City Marketing and Branding (2/13-2/15)

Readings: Suárez Carrasquillo, Carlos A. *Gated communities and city marketing: Recent trends in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico C*, Kalandides, *City Marketing for Bogotá C*.

VIII. Producing Social Housing (2/20-2/22)

Readings: Waddell *OLD HABITS DIE HARD, Political Patronage and Remittance-Led Development in Guanajuato, Mexico C*; Valenzuela, *Failed Markets C*; Libertun, *Why there? C*; Ward, Ch. 9.

**Mid Term Exam (2/27)**

IX. Political Contestation (3/1-3/13)

Readings: David Renfrew “*We Are Not Marginals*” *The Cultural Politics of Lead Poisoning in Montevideo, Uruguay C*; Perry, “*If We Didn’t Have Water*”: *Black Women’s Struggle for Urban Land Rights in Brazil C*; Rodríguez Cortés, *Building Citizenship: The Struggle for Housing in Eastern Mexico City C*.

X. From informal to formal housing (3/15-3/20)

Readings: Marsiglia and Doyenart, Ch.10; DiVirgilio, Ch.11; Jiménez, Ch.12.

XI. On Innerburbs (3/22-3/27)

Readings: Ward, Ch. 1, 2, 13.

XII. Case Studies

A. Caribbean (3/29-4/3)

Readings: Schmelzkopf, *Scale and Narrative in the Struggle for Environment and Livelihood in Vieques, Puerto Rico C*; Mycoo, *The retreat of the upper and middle classes to gated communities in the poststructural adjustment era: the case of Trinidad C*; UNCHR, *New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean C*; Grajeda Ch. 5.

B. Central America (4/5-4/10)

Readings: Jiménez and Cruz, Ch. 3; Ward, Ch. 4; Roberts, Ch. 6.

C. South America (4/12-4/17)

Readings: del Águila, *Living on the Construction Site C*; Zapata, *Transnational migration, remittances and the financialization of housing in Colombia C*, Rojas and Ward, Ch. 8.

XIII. Future Trends (4/24)

Readings: Friendly, *Urban Policy, Social Movements, and the Right to the City in Brazil C*; Maricato, *The Future of Global Peripheral Cities C*.

**SECOND EXAM (TBA)**