

Spring 2008 SYLLABUS

**URPA 5303/3301: The Metroplex:
Survey of Urban Affairs, Planning and Administration**

Instructor: Maria Martinez-cosio

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Monday 3-6:50 p.m. University Hall 521

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours	Monday & Wed. 5-7 p.m.	Web Page	www.uta.edu/faculty/mcosio

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will identify major urban issues affecting the Metroplex.
- Students will analyze select urban issues through readings and site visits throughout the Metroplex.
- Students will demonstrate teamwork and create a team project focused on an urban issue.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to identify and compile information as part of a team through selection and in-class analysis of readings, site visit and presentation of contrasting viewpoints on a specific urban issue.

Textbook and Other Course Materials Requirements:

None. Individual readings will be distributed by instructor and student teams.

Description of Course Content:

The Metroplex provides an ideal laboratory for study with more than 100 cities and other governmental units, thousands of neighborhoods and business enterprises, major concentration of minorities and dozens of ethnic groups. An in-depth orientation on urban dynamics utilizing senior faculty members, governmental and community leaders, and current research reports and studies will be used. Students will acquire a broader understanding of urban dynamics through site visits, readings and in-class discussions that will help place urban issues into context.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

1. GROUP PROJECT (30 points): Document your specific role including challenges to completing your assigned work, contacts you made or sources you used, the role you played in ensuring your group's success. Turn in one page explanation the week following your group's presentation.

2. REFLECTIONS PAPERS (30 points): Six reflection papers (1-2 pages) are required. **GRADUATE STUDENTS: 3-4 PAGES REQUIRED.** Each will be worth 5 points. The paper should connect your

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impressions of our field trip/visit to the literature that was assigned for that class. Papers will be graded based on content, spelling/grammar, ability to link literature to visit, critical thinking skills, and ability to link to broader urban processes. Due the week following a field trip.

3. FINAL PAPER (30 points): A six to ten-page paper on select area of group project. **GRADUATE STUDENTS: 10-12 PAGES REQUIRED.** Papers will be graded based on content, spelling/grammar, ability to link literature to visit, critical thinking skills, and ability to link to broader urban processes.

4. CLASS PARTICIPATION (10 points): merely showing up for class equals 5 points. Active participation includes contributing to class discussions by using readings and examples from visits.

Course Requirements:

1. To attend the entire class session every week. In class activities and discussion are an integral part of our learning together. Absences will reduce your "participation" points.
2. To participate in class discussion and all activities. I expect for you to learn to engage intellectually with the course readings, share your view of issues pertinent to this class in a collegial manner, to question and analyze your own and other's assumptions and viewpoints and to take initiative in all aspects of the progress of the course.
3. To complete all assigned readings to prepare for discussion, use the readings in written analyses and know content for exams.
4. To submit all written assignments on the due date. **Late assignments will be docked one grade level every day after the due date.**

Grading Policy:

Late papers will be reduced by one letter grade per day that they are the past due date.

Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend every class. Unexcused absences will impact the student's participation grade.

Drop Policy:

Please refer to UTA's student catalogue.

Librarian to Contact:

Mitch Stepanovich in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library: STEPANOVICH@uta.edu.

Academic Dishonesty:

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a

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completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Plagiarism Web Sites with Examples:

- **Plagiarism Examples** (Rob Toreki, University of Kentucky Department of Chemistry)
<http://www.chem.uky.edu/courses/common/plagiarism.html#Examples>
- **Avoiding Plagiarism** (UC-Davis)
<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>
- **Unacceptable Paraphrases** (Indiana University Writing Tutorial Services)
<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets.shtml>

Student Support Services Available:

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

E-Culture Policy:

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

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All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Course Schedule

Week #1: January 14 Introduction
Topic Selection; group dynamics; review class requirements/readings.

Week #2: January 21 Martin Luther King Jr Holiday- NO CLASS

Week#3: January 28 Trinity River Authority. Wasterwater management tour of facility. Meet in student parking lot (#49) across from university hall, off W. Mitchell. See map at <http://www.uta.edu/maps/map?id=uh>. We will carpool from the foot of the bridge crossing over Mitchell promptly at 3 p.m. MUST BRING PICTURE ID FOR SECURITY CLEARANCE.

Read before our tour:

1. Go to www.trinityra.org/ and read the section "About Us," go to "Facilities" on top menu bar, then go to "Wastewater Treatment" and read entire section. Also under "About Us," there's a "Tour TRA" section that you should also read.

Week #4: February 4 Mansfield Planning Department –Planning for Rapid Growth
City of Mansfield Planning Director Felix Wong. Meet in student parking lot (#49) across from university hall, off W. Mitchell. See map at <http://www.uta.edu/maps/map?id=uh>. We will carpool from the foot of the bridge crossing over Mitchell promptly at 3 p.m.

Week #5: February 11 – Planning session + Discussion: Managing growth in urban areas

- Students present a **reflection paper** and contribute to seminar discussion based on readings and site visits. Focus on challenges and policy recommendations including regional planning, transportation, planning for schools, and financing for new growth.
- Students will decide topic issues and form working groups
- I will demonstrate use of library journal databases

Week #6: February 18 Group#1: Dallas Historic Preservation

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Week #7: February 25 Trinity River project

Week #8: March 3 Intervention- Juvenile Crime

Week #9: March 10 Sports Complexes as redevelopment

Week #10: March 17 SPRING BREAK

Week #11: March 24 Prevention- Juvenile Delinquency

Week #12: March 31 Sustainability-Industrial

Week #13: April 7 School Safety

Week #14: April 14 Green development

Week # 15 April 21 Food Sanitation

Week # 16 April 28- Final paper due. Develop a final paper that discusses at length one element of the broader topic you presented in class. Paper must be written APA style (look at website), formatted as a scholarly article with at least 5 references from academic fields that inform this issue. GRADUATE STUDENTS MUST USE 6-10 REFERENCES.

STUDENT GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES:

Each student group is charged with:

- Effectively using a consensus approach to choosing a topic/site that allows us to discuss broad issues related to Metroplex
- set up relevant speakers, obtain contact information. Confirm speakers 2-3 days before visit. Share contact information with professor.
- Provide maps and directions to the location.
- Team members must provide one scholarly article and one non-scholarly article to professor two weeks before visit so articles can be posted on class website. Articles should present current debates on issue or at least different perspectives on issue for

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- classmates to read. Non-scholarly article can be a newspaper/magazine article; a web article or a trade journal article.
- Students can present contrasting viewpoints (more than one speaker? Visit to more than one site?) but consider travel time.
 - Team members should carefully document their role and include it in their final paper.
 - Team members will lead the discussion in class the week after their organized visit. Students will come prepared with some discussion questions that can begin to help us frame urban issues more broadly.