

GENERAL INFORMATION		
Instructors Gabriel Maracle	Email: gabrielmaracle@cunet.carleton.ca	Lecture Schedule: Thursdays 11:35 AM-2:25 PM
Course type: Lecture	Lecture Location: Confirm location on Carleton Central	Office Hours: Thursdays 10:25 AM-11:35 AM Loeb D697

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Worldwide trends show that people are increasingly becoming urban; some statistics suggest that by 2050 nearly 7 in 10 people will be living in cities. Urbanization and urban life continue to be major factors in politics in the 21st century. This course examines how cities and urban spaces are sites of multiple and overlapping issues, movements, conflicts and communities. Students will learn about urban issues, from regional and federal politics to education, sports, public spaces, housing, policing, protests, history, and much more. The course encourages students to look at urban spaces differently and have opportunities to sharpen their academic and professional skills.

COURSE FORMAT

This course will be delivered in person, keeping the health and safety of the students in mind. As this is a first-year seminar, there is an expectation to read and engage with the material. This course will be oriented around a lecture and class discussion.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. **Understand** the complexities of urban life and politics
2. **Apply** critical analytical skills to a variety of different issues
3. **Strengthen** research and writing skills
4. **Synthesize** academic and grey literature
5. **Organize** their work and chosen topics in a way to conduct research efficiently

COURSE MATERIALS

Weekly readings will be available on the course platform. The readings consist of both academic and grey literature. There are podcast episodes or videos as part of some of the week's materials. There is no assigned textbook for this course.

ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments must **be double-spaced** and in **Times New Roman 12-point font**. You will be expected to submit properly edited assignments free of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and citation errors. Equally important to your writing are diction and syntax.

Citation style will be **MLA** or **Chicago**

All course assignments must be submitted to the Brightspace learning platform.

Extensions for assignments will be granted on a case by case basis. The maximum amount of time that can be granted for an extension is **7-days**.

Late assignments will be deducted **5% per day** from the deadline to a maximum of **20%**.

All assignments are due at 11:59PM

EVALUATIONS-AT-GLANCE

	ASSIGNMENT	WEIGHT	DUE DATE
1	First Term Check-In	15%	January 22, 2026
2	Proposal	10%	February 12, 2026
3	Council Vote	15%	Weeks 10-12
4	Presentation	25%	Weeks 10-12
5	Final Essay	20%	April 2, 2026
6	Class Participation	15%	Throughout the year

EVALUATIONS

1. First Term Check-In

In first year seminars, you are given the opportunity to learn about a specific topic, as well as learn academic skills that will serve you throughout your academic career. Given that you have already been through your first term as a university students, this assignment asks you to reflect on how your first term went at university.

You should cover three different topic areas:

1. Basic data: name, program you are enrolled, academic interests
2. Where are you from; with a specific focus on whether it is a city, small town, and where in Canada it is situated.
3. Academic positives: what you excelled at, or experienced that enriched your academic life
4. Academic negatives: what could you improve, or what skills you would like to work on

This assignment does not require any citations, but it should still be written in an academic voice. This assignment must be **1.5-2 pages**.

2. Proposal

This short proposal will cover what you intend to focus on for your final paper and presentation. Discuss what the issue is, what your interest is in the issue, and your preliminary thoughts and ideas to address the issue are. It should be between **half to one pages** long.

3. City Council Vote

During the **If I Was Mayor** presentation, you will act as city councillors and you will vote on whether or not you would support the presentations initiative. You will also have to provide an explanation of why you voted the way you did on **12** of the presentations (four from each day). Each entry should be between 2-4 sentences

4. Class Presentation: If I Was Mayor

You will do a **5-8 minute** presentation that is a summary of your essay. You will discuss what issue you've identified that you would address as mayor, why needs to be addressed, how much it would cost, and how you would go about addressing it. You will be assessed on your ability to synthesize your essay into a slide deck, the design of the slide deck and your ability to deliver the information in an engaging way.

5. Final Essay: If I was Mayor

You have been elected mayor of the City of Ottawa. You will choose one issue that IS RELATED TO class as the focus of your first major initiative for change. You will need to discuss what the issue is, why it is important, a general idea of how much it would cost to taxpayers, and how you will go about to address the issue. Keep in mind that cities are complicated and diverse, so you will also need to discuss how you will ensure that communities buy into your initiative.. You will write **4-5 pages** with a minimum of **six** academic sources.

6. Class Participation

Learning is not a spectator sport and this is a seminar. You are expected to attend each class, complete the week's course materials and be ready to discuss them. This will be assessed throughout the course, through your engagement in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. **January 8, 2026:** Introduction and Land Acknowledgments

Read the syllabus

Week 2. **January 15, 2026:** Urban Governance

Association of Municipalities Ontario. "Municipal 101 | AMO."
<https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101>.

Andrew, Caroline, and David Doloreux. "Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Urban Governance: The Case of the City-Region of Ottawa in Canada." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36, no. 6 (November 2012): 1288–1305.

Week 3. **January 22, 2026:** Non-Governmental Agencies and Community Organization

Zbuckea, Alexandra, and Mauro Romanelli. "The Role of NGOs in Urban Development." *International Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics, Societal Impact of Knowledge and Design*, 2018, 637–48.

Week 4. **January 29, 2026:** Housing and Homelessness

Korzinski, David. "Economic Outlook: Burdened by Debt and Rising Housing Costs, Three-in-Ten Canadians 'Struggling' to Get By." Angus Reid Institute, June 5, 2023.
<https://angusreid.org/canada-economy-personal-finance-bank-of-canada-inflation-interest-rates/>.

Week 5. **February 5, 2026:** Environment and Climate Change

Guyadeen, Dave, Jason Thistlethwaite, and Daniel Henstra. "Evaluating the Quality of Municipal Climate Change Plans in Canada." *Climatic Change* 152, no. 1 (January 2019): 121–43.

"Building a Legacy of Local Climate Action: The Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (2016–2022)." Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2023.

Week 6. **February 12, 2026:** Health and Healthcare

Mayaud, Jerome R., Martino Tran, and Rohan Nuttall. "An Urban Data Framework for Assessing Equity in Cities: Comparing Accessibility to Healthcare Facilities in Cascadia." *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems* 78 (November 2019): 101401.

WINTER BREAK – February 16, 2026 to February 20, 2026

Week 7. **February 26, 2026:** Food and Food Sustainability

Richmond, Chantelle, and Brian Dokis. "'We Make It Work Because We Must': Narrating the Creation of an Urban Indigenous Food Bank in London, Ontario, Canada." *Land* 12, no. 11 (November 7, 2023): 2028.

Week 8. **March 5, 2026:** Public Space and Memory

McHutchion, Benjamin. "Colonial Statues as Memorial Contact Zones: Macdonald, Cornwallis and Statue Removal in Canada." *Sculpture Journal* 31, no. 1 (March 2022): 55–74.

Week 9. **March 12, 2026:** 2SQT in the City

Rosenberg, Rae Daniel. "Negotiating Racialised (Un)Belonging: Black LGBTQ Resistance in Toronto's Gay Village." *Urban Studies* 58, no. 7 (May 2021): 1397–1413.

Week 10. **March 19, 2026:** Public Safety

Walby, Kevin, and Blair Wilkinson. "The Visual Politics of Public Police Instagram Use in Canada." *New Media & Society* 25, no. 5 (May 2023): 898–920.

Week 11. **March 26, 2026:** Ethnic, Religious and Cultural Groups

Hou, Feng, and Zheng Wu. "Racial Diversity, Minority Concentration, and Trust in Canadian Urban Neighborhoods." *Social Science Research* 38, no. 3 (September 2009): 693–716.

Week 12. **April 2, 2026:** Sports

Jakar, Gidon S., and Mark S. Rosentraub. "From Public Goods Theory to Municipal Capitalism: Evaluating Investments in Sport Venues from an Urban Entrepreneurial Perspective." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 45, no. 5 (May 28, 2023): 905–22.

Appendix

Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

- **Carleton Resources:**

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

- **Off Campus Resources:**

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Please contact your instructor if you are experiencing circumstances that (a) are beyond your control, (b) have a significant impact your capacity to meet your academic obligations, and (c) could not have reasonably been prevented. Decisions on academic consideration are in your instructor's discretion; they will be guided by the course learning outcomes and the principle of good faith. Please see [here](#) for more details. For considerations relating to course work, your instructor may request that you complete the [Self-Declaration form](#). To apply for a deferral of your final exam, you must submit the Self-Declaration form to the Registrar's Office no later than three days after the scheduled examination or take-home due date.

Pregnancy accommodation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious accommodation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Accommodations for students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation, or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, [click here](#).

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will be

provided to students who engage in student activities at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more information, please [click here](#).

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline.

Sexual Violence Policy

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. Survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

Plagiarism

The Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include, but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, websites, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- Using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;

- Using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- Submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question or a final grade of "F" for the course. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

Intellectual property

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. The departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2

70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1
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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton Email Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton University email accounts and/or Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

Carleton Political Science Society

The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.