



**DILLARD**  
UNIVERSITY

Course Syllabus

**URB 411: HOUSING POLICY**

Fall 2017      3 credit hours

Instructor: Dr. Casey Schreiber, Assistant Professor of Urban Studies & Public Policy

Class Meeting: M W F 10:00 -10:50am DUICEF room 109

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Office Hours: DUICEF 234, M W 12:00am – 2:00pm; T 2:00pm – 4:00pm; and by appointment

**Course Pre-Requisites:** There are no pre-requisites for this course.

**Course Description**

*This course will focus on Housing Policy in the United States as well as highlight global housing issues. This course contains an examination of policy issues affecting urban housing such as real estate development, property taxation, homestead exemptions, race and class discrimination and public housing.*

**Conceptual Framework and Theme**

Current issues in housing pose a continuous threat to the city of New Orleans. More than one third of New Orleanians pay more than 50% of their income on rent. Debates over short term rentals such as Airbnb heat up local council meetings. We watch every day as public housing demolitions make way for new developments. Even social media laments on how the service workers who are the backbone of New Orleans economy and culture can no longer afford to live here. In light of these important issues, students will work with community partners in order to propose practical solutions to housing issues that plague New Orleans. Students will have the opportunity to visit historic neighborhoods, look at areas that are undergoing gentrification, and see prominent examples of how mixed-income developments are replacing New Orleans public housing complexes. The city of New Orleans will become a living classroom to explore housing policy and see how those policies shape the urban fabric. Students will track current news articles throughout the semester in order to connect housing policy to topics that may resonate with their personal lives. This is a civic engagement course.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- List key housing policies implemented throughout U.S. urban history
- Describe global housing issues such as slums, homelessness and uneven development
- Identify characteristics of mixed-income housing and its relationship to public housing
- Identify characteristics of gentrification and the relationship between housing and community
- Identify policy tools to address affordable housing
- Propose practical solutions to social problems
- Communicate complex policy issues in a clear and concise manner both orally and in writing

- Influence the political process by explaining policy solutions to public audiences

### **Required text and Selected Readings**

You are required to purchase the following book for this course. You can find it used on Amazon for as little as \$5.

- ***From Tenements to the Taylor Homes. 2000. Bauman, Biles and Szylvian.***
- Other required assigned readings such as case studies, book chapters, online content and journal articles will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class.

### **Canvas Communications System**

We will utilize the Canvas system for course information. You may access Canvas from the Dillard University main website using your Dillard email and password.

Additional 'online' classes may be held throughout the semester as make-up classes due to unforeseen university closings or for anticipated reasons such as your instructor will be out of town to present research at national conferences. Dillard also utilizes Canvas for continuing education and communication during disaster.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

This is a civic engagement course supported through a partnership with Project Pericles. We will work as a team to complete the following projects and other projects identified based on student interest:

- Connect with St. Bernard project (SBP). Lead a (one day minimum) service project with SBP that is open to all Dillard students. Get SBP on the permanent Dillard approved list of community service sites.
- Participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Housing, Health and Home Improvement hosted at Dillard University. Due September 30, 2017.
- Contact Dillard Community Development (Nick Harris) to establish professional connections between Housing Policy students and community experts in housing and community.
- Connect with local housing agencies (HANO, NDF, etc.) to establish both short-term project goals and initiate long-term relationships between Dillard students and housing partners.
- Partner with the Urban Studies student organization to invite guest speakers to campus.
- Propose affordable housing solutions and present them to public audiences.
- Visit historic neighborhoods, areas of gentrification and mixed-income sites.

You also have some more traditional in-class activities to complete:

- Lead discussion groups from your assigned readings in the course textbook.
- Identify a timeline of major housing policies in American urban history
- Explain the 2 tier housing system in America
- Define current housing problems in New Orleans and identify current solutions to affordable housing
- Track current news articles in housing and actively participate in twitter #URB411
- Submit a "Housing Diary" – updates due at the completion of each civic engagement project

### **STUDENT POLICIES**

#### **Class Attendance and Student Absences:**

It is expected that students attend every class and that professors call roll and document student absences.

### **The Grading System**

Dillard University follows a 10 point grading scale:

#### **Grading Scale**

A	90 – 100	Excellent
B	80 - 89	Good
C	70 - 79	Average
D	60 - 69	Passing
F	0 - 59	Failure

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty.

### **Disaster Policy Statement**

In the event of a disaster, Dillard University Preparedness plan will take priority over the timeline in this syllabus. The summary of key points of the plan is available on the University website and by printed literature.

### **Disability Statement**

All requests for accommodations must be submitted to the Office of Disability Services. Requests for accommodations must be in writing on the appropriate form(s) and with the appropriate supporting documentation for consideration and/or review (documentation must be dated within three (3) years of request). The review of the request may, at the discretion of the university, include an evaluation and determination of the scope of the disability and, if appropriate, request for additional medical documentation, examinations and/or opinions in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. In order to request program services, please feel free to contact Ms. Sheila Judge, Director of Disability services, Student Union Suite 270, 504-816-4370, [sjudge@dillard.edu](mailto:sjudge@dillard.edu).