

Barnard College, Columbia University
Department of Political Science

POLS V3313 AMERICAN URBAN POLITICS

Preliminary Syllabus as of August 18, 2009

Fall 2009

304 Barnard Hall (Held Auditorium)

Mon Wed 1:10-2:25 pm

Professor Flora S. Davidson e-mail: fdavidson@barnard.edu
416 B Lehman Hall (Barnard Library building) phone: 212 854-6181
Office Hours: Mon 3-4 pm; Wed 4:10-6pm; AND by appointment

Teaching Assistants

Ben Schupmann bas2181@columbia.edu

Stephen Thompson slt2115@columbia.edu

Students must also register for a required discussion section, POLS V3314. Each section is limited to 20 students, with the following section choices:

1. Mondays 4:10-5 in 421 Lehman with Ben Schupmann
2. Tuesdays, 6:10-7 in 214 Milbank with Ben Schupmann
3. Wednesdays, 6:10-7 in 421 Lehman with Stephen Thompson
4. Wednesdays, 7:10-8 in 421 Lehman with Stephen Thompson

Course Description

An introduction to the study of urban politics and why cities matter. Cities are not legal entities defined in the U.S. constitution and American cities exist within one of the most complex and disorganized political systems in the world. Focuses on local government structures and relationships with other levels of government and explores the degree to which urban politics can solve urban problems. Studies how urban governance and power have been exercised historically, and how political scientists have theorized city power. Themes include power and decision-making; the leadership and administration of cities; present day urban problems and strategies to deal with them; and the global city. Topics covered will include urban political economy; political machines and urban reform; immigration, race, class, and ethnicity; the lack of a national urban policy; and urban problems such as fiscal strain, poverty and inequality; and the burden of growth and attracting economic investment. We also closely follow the current economic recession, the Obama Administration, and the impact its economic recovery plans is having on cities. Students are expected to keep up with major developments in the news, especially as they relate to topics covered in class.

Course Goals

This course fulfills the **Social Analysis** requirement for the Barnard General Education Requirements. It introduces students to some of the central concepts and methods in

political science, how political scientists critically examine social structures and processes, and how power is distributed across different institutions and groups. It also prepares students for advanced undergraduate study in political science and related social sciences.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance & Participation in required discussion section once a week.

10% Sections begin meeting during the week of September 21. Anyone who attends all section meetings (each student is allowed to miss one section meeting for any reason without penalty) will automatically receive at least a B+ as a section grade. A's and A-'s will be used to reward active section participation, if that participation demonstrates that the student has completed the assigned reading. **If you must miss a section** because of illness, family emergency, or a religious holiday which prevents you from working on that day, you must notify your section leader by email in advance and work out an acceptable makeup assignment, for example by turning in a one page written answer to one of the discussion questions handed out for the section you missed.

Take-home midterm

30% The essay questions for the midterm will be distributed in class on October 14. The questions will be based on assigned readings and lectures through October 14 and no outside reading will be required. The midterm will be due in class on **Monday, October 26**.

Book Review selected from a list of books 30%

By the end of September, a list of books will be distributed along with guidelines for writing a book review of no more than 8 to 10 pages (double spaced with one inch margins). You will select one book from this list and submit your completed review no later than **Wednesday, December 2**.

Final Exam during exam period 30%

The final exam will be held on the official date and time to be set by Columbia University. Please wait to make your travel plans until this date is officially announced by the Columbia Registrar. The in class exam will consist of two sections: (1) a list of short identification questions, and (2) two longer essays. In each case the student will be given some choice concerning which questions to answer. Each student may bring one 8 1/2" by 11" piece of paper to the otherwise closed book exam, on which anything may be typed on both sides. No laptop or cell-phone use for any reason will be allowed during the exam unless the student has made prior arrangements through the Office of Disability Services.

Honor Code: This course will observe the Barnard College Honor Code. Approved by the student body in 1912, the Code states:

We, the students of Barnard College, resolve to uphold the honor of the College by refraining from every form of dishonesty in our academic life. We consider it dishonest

to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any papers or books not authorized by the instructor in examinations, or to present oral work or written work which is not entirely our own, unless otherwise approved by the instructor. We consider it dishonest to remove without authorization, alter, or deface library and other academic materials. We pledge to do all that is in our power to create a spirit of honesty and honor for its own sake.

The issue of academic integrity is taken very seriously. If you have any questions about any aspect of doing honest academic work, please don't hesitate to ask Prof. Davidson or the TAs. No question is too minor. Any student found to have violated the Honor Code will face the disciplinary rules of her or his home college.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related accommodations are encouraged to see Prof. Davidson during her office hours as soon as possible. Students who need test or classroom accommodations must be registered in advance with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at Barnard, or the Columbia equivalent.

Classroom Etiquette

Our class is an environment conducive to active learning, and any distractions will undermine this purpose. As a matter of respect for your peers, your section leaders, and your instructor, please be in your seats by 1:10 pm and I in turn will end class promptly at 2:25 pm. If circumstances require you to arrive 10 minutes late or leave early once or twice a semester, please do so unobtrusively and without disruption to other members of the class.

Please do not bring your lunch or noisy, aromatic foods to class. Water and beverages in sealed containers are fine.

All cell phones and blackberries or similar devices must be turned off for the full duration of the class. Students whose phones ring during class will be asked to leave.

Anyone wishing to use a laptop in lecture is expected to sit in the back half of the classroom so as not to disturb other students. A student may speak to Prof. Davidson during her office hours to request an exception to this seating rule.

Readings

Additional articles and other selections may be added to this reading list. Changes will be announced well in advance in class and by e-mail. All reading assignments are required.

Required readings are on reserve at the Barnard Library Reserve Room, and most articles and short selections in other books will also be available as PDF files which can be

accessed via Courseworks. Most journal articles are also available on-line through CLIO as E-Journals on the Library web site.

Books

The following books have been ordered at Book Culture, 536 West 112th Street (between Broadway and Amsterdam) and are also on reserve at the Barnard Library Reserve Room.

Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America*, 7th edition, (New York: Pearson Longman, 2009)

William L. Riordan, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*, (New York: Bedford/St. Martins: 1994)

Speakers

Several guest speakers have been invited to share their expertise with you. Once their appearances have been confirmed, I will announce the dates of their class visits.

Course Schedule

I. Introduction

Wed, September 9 ***Why Study Urban Politics?***

Mon, September 14 ***Early Urban History***

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 1 The Evolution of City Politics in America; Ch. 2 Growth and Governance: The Political Legacy of America's Urban Past. pp 1-43.

II. The Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Urban Development

Wed, September 16 ***Machine Politics***

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 3 Party Machines and the Immigrants pp. 46-67

William L. Riordan, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*, pp. 45-106.

Mon, Sept 21- Wed, Sept 23 ***Reform Politics***

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 4 The Reform Crusades, pp.70 -100

Mon, September 28 ***Yom Kippur – Class Cancelled***

Wed, Sept 30 - Mon Oct 5 The Depression, the New Deal and the Rise of National Urban Policy

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 5 Urban Voters and the Reshaping of National Politics pp.101-123

David M. Kennedy, "What the New Deal Did," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol 124, No.2, 2009, pp 251-268.

Film Clips: New York: A Documentary Film: Episode 6 – The City of Tomorrow 1931-1939

Wed, Oct 7-Mon Oct 12 Post-War America and the Consequences of National Policies

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 7 National Policy and the City/Suburban Divide, pp. 161-187.

Thomas J. Sugrue, "Racial Confrontation in Post-War Detroit", pp. 139-160 in Paul Kantor and Dennis Judd, *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: The Reader*, 5th edition (New York: Pearson Longman 2008)..

Wed, October 14 Robert Moses – the Quintessential Power Broker

Note: Take Home Midterm distributed in class.

Robert Moses, "What's the Matter with New York?" *The New York Times Magazine*, August 1, 1943

Jane Jacobs, "Downtown is for People" *Fortune*, April 1958.

"Robert Moses: The Power Broker: Interview with Robert A. Caro" in *New York: An Illustrated History*, narrative by Ric Burns and James Sanders, 1st edition (New York: Knopf, 1999) pp. 458-465.

Herbert Kaufman, "Robert Moses: Charismatic Bureaucrat," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 90, No. 3 (Autumn, 1975) pp. 521-538

Kenneth T. Jackson "Robert Moses and the Rise of New York: The Power Broker in Perspective," pp. 67-71 in Hilary Ballon & Kenneth T. Jackson, eds., *Robert Moses & the Modern City*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2007).

Martha Biondi, "Robert Moses, Race, and the Limits of an Activist State," pp116-121 in Hilary Ballon & Kenneth T. Jackson, eds., *Robert Moses & the Modern City*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2007).

Robert Fishman, "Revolt of the Urbs: Robert Moses and His Critics" pp. 122-129 in Hilary Ballon & Kenneth T. Jackson, eds., *Robert Moses & the Modern City*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2007).

Film Clips: New York: A Documentary Film : Episode 7 – The City and the World: 1945 – Present.

III. Politics, Power & Decision-Making

Mon, October 19

Approaches to the Study of Cities

Paul E. Peterson, "The Interests of the Limited City" and Clarence Stone, "Urban Regimes" pp. 14-42, in Paul Kantor and Dennis Judd, *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: The Reader*, 5th edition (New York: Pearson Longman 2008).

Clarence Stone "Power and Governance in American Cities" pp 126-147 in John P. Pelissero, ed, *Cities, Politics, and Policy, A Comparative Analysis*, (Washington D.C: CQ Press, 2003).

Robert Stein, "The Politics of Revenue and Spending Policies," pp. 217-236 in John P. Pelissero, ed, *Cities, Politics, and Policy, A Comparative Analysis*, (Washington D.C: CQ Press, 2003).

Wed, October 21

Constitutional Framework

Michael J. Rich, "The Intergovernmental Environment" pp 35-67, in John P. Pelissero, ed, *Cities, Politics, and Policy, A Comparative Analysis*, (Washington D.C: CQ Press, 2003).

IV. The Urban Crisis in the late 20th Century

Mon, Oct 26-Wed, Oct 28 ***The Decline and Fall of National Urban Policy***

Note: Monday, October 26 - Take Home Midterm Due today in class.

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 6. The City-Suburban Divide, pp. 126- 160 and Ch. 8 Urban Policy and the Politics of Race, pp. 188-211.

Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (Excerpts), in Dennis Judd and Paul Kantor, editors, *The Politics of Urban America A Reader*, 3rd edition, (New York: Pearson Longman, 2002) pp. 297-306.

Demetrios Caraley, "Washington Abandons the Cities," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol 107, No.1, Spring 1992, pp. 1-30.

Film clips – Eyes on the Prize II: America at the racial crossroads, 1965-1985 and Bill Moyers Journal: Race and Politics in America’s Cities (on the Kerner Commission)

Mon, November 2 ***Academic Holiday – No Class***

Wed, November 4 ***The Decline and Fall of National Urban Policy
(continued)***

William Julius Wilson, “The Political and Economic Forces Shaping Concentrated Poverty,” *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol 123, No 4, 2008-09, pp 555-571.

V. *Governing The Multiethnic Metropolis*

Mon, November 9 ***Urban Flight, Suburbanization and the Rise of the
Sunbelt***

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 9. The Rise of the Sunbelt, pp. 212-232; and Ch. 10. The Politics of Suburban Development, pp 234-259.

Andrew Ross, “Kinder, Gentler Government?” in Paul Kantor and Dennis Judd, *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: The Reader*, 5th edition (New York: Pearson Longman 2008).

Wed, Nov 11- Mon, Nov 16 ***Urban Finances, Financial Strain and Crisis***

Judd & Swanstrom Ch. 12 City Finances and the Dynamics of Urban Growth, pp. 289-316.

Ester R. Fuchs, “The Permanent Urban Fiscal Crisis” pp. 49-73 in Julia Vitullo-Martin, editor, *Breaking Away: The Future of Cities*, 1996, The Twentieth Century Fund Press,

Wed, Nov 18 –Mon, Nov 23 ***Political Incorporation and Minority Mayors***

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch 14 Governance in the Global Era, pp. 347-375.

James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling, “Broken Windows,” *The Atlantic*, March 1982.

J. Phillip Thompson, III, *Double Trouble: Black Mayors, Black Communities, and the Call for a Deep Democracy*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), Introduction, pp. 3 – 19.

Julia Ramey, “Confidence Man: Is Newark’s mayor saving the city, selling it, or both?” *Next American City*, Issue 23, 2009, pp 28-33.

Film Clips: Bill Moyers Journal: Race and Politics in America’s Cities (Mayor Cory Booker interview).

Wed, November 25

Thanksgiving travel day – No class

VI. The Metropolis in the Global Era

Mon, Nov 30 – Wed, Dec 2 Urban Growth Imperatives: Strategies

Note: Book Review Due no later than Wednesday, December 2 in class.

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 13. The Fall and Rise of the Inner Cities pp. 317-346

Richard Florida, “The Power of Place: The Creative Class,” in Paul Kantor and Dennis Judd, *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: The Reader*, 5th edition (New York: Pearson Longman 2008).

Elizabeth Strom, “Culture, Art, and Downtown Development” in Paul Kantor and Dennis Judd, *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: The Reader*, 5th edition (New York: Pearson Longman 2008).

Richard Foglesong, “When Disney Comes to Town” in Paul Kantor and Dennis Judd, *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: The Reader*, 5th edition (New York: Pearson Longman 2008).

Thomas Wheatley, “The 22-mile life preserver,” *Next American City*, Issue 21, (2008) pp. 28- 33. (Atlanta Beltline) Online at Americancity.org

Nicolai Ouroussoff, “Reinventing America’s Cities: The Time is Now,” *The New York Times*, March 29, 2009.

Richard Florida, “How the Crash Will Reshape America” *The Atlantic*, March 2009.

Jonathan Mahler, “G.M., Detroit and the Fall of the Black Middle Class,” *The New York Times Magazine*, June 28, 2009.

Mon, Dec 7 – Wed, Dec 9 The Obama Administration and Cities

Topics and Readings TBA depending on current events.

Mon, December 14

Are Cities Governable Today?

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 15, The Political Fault Lines of the Global Era, pp. 376-383.

Review and preparation for Final Exam

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