

American Urban Politics (U.S.)  
Political Science V3313 section 001

Spring 2001  
TR 2:40pm-3:55pm  
Room 313 Fayerweather

Professor Jill Simone Gross  
Office: 401 Lehman Hall  
Office Hours: Thursdays following class

Course Description: Cities have been conceptualized throughout history in two lights – for some cities are places of hope, while for others they are places of despair. Cities have the capacity to offer both the best and worst to their residents. This course explores the relationship between citizens and government within the urban arena, and considers both the successes and failures of urban governments in responding to the changing needs of urban communities. The urban environment is dynamic, undergoing constant transition in relationship to broader political, social and economic forces. Over the past 30 years cities have experienced unprecedented change; suburban population shifts, the restructuring of urban economic bases, social fragmentation, new immigrant populations, and the complex forces of globalization. Each of these changes will have a lasting impact upon the urban experience. In this course we will explore the impact of these changes upon the structure of urban governments, communities and policy-making processes in American cities.

Required Texts

John Friedman, Empowerment: The Politics of Alternative Development (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1992).

Dennis Judd and Paul Kantor, The Politics of Urban America: A Reader (2nd Edition) (Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 1998).

Bernard Ross and Myron Levine, Urban Politics: Power in Metropolitan America (6th Edition) (Itasca, IL: F.E. Peacock, 2000).

Books are available at Labyrinth Bookstore (112<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway and Amsterdam). Readings will also be drawn from a range of electronic sources; website addresses are noted in the syllabus. Students should also read the New York Times for current urban politics and policy information. Readings identified as supplementary are indicated for those wishing additional materials or background on a particular issue or topic.

Requirements:

Students are expected to be present at all lectures. Attendance is taken in this class. Class members are expected to be on time and prepared to discuss the days reading assignments in class. Though this is a lecture course, we will attempt to inject some dialogue and discussion into each class. There will be two exams, an in-class midterm exam, and a take-home final exam. All exams are essay form. A full review will take place in class prior to exams. In addition, students have the option of writing write two brief 3-5 page reaction papers on in-class films and contemporary urban issues, to supplement their grade-- details to be announced in class.

Tentative Schedule of Readings (Note: The scheduled dates are tentative, they are included to aid you in preparing for the semester – but are subject to change according to the pace and needs of the class)\_

1. January 16th Introduction  
January 18 Power and Politics in Urban Areas: Conceptualizing the Problems and Setting the Context  
Ross & Levine, Ch. 1 The L.A. Riots and the Urban Situation  
Article in Judd & Kantor:  
27. "Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders" – Kerner Commission  
Electronic: Jonathan Kozol, "Life on the Mississippi: East St. Louis, Illinois" in Savage Inequalities  
[http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Third\\_World\\_US/SI\\_Kozol\\_StLouis.html](http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Third_World_US/SI_Kozol_StLouis.html)  
Supplementary: Part One: Findings -- Revitalization, Renewal, and Remaining Metropolitan Challenges  
<http://www.huduser.org:80/publications/polleg/tsoc99/summ-02.html>

2. Jan 23- Jan 25 The Evolution of Cities and Suburbs: Overview  
 Ross & Levine, Ch. 2 "The Evolution of Cities and Suburbs"  
 Articles in Judd & Kantor:  
 5. Sam Bass Warner, "The Environment of Private Opportunity"  
 6. Richard Wade, "The Urban Frontier"  
 7. Ira Katznelson, "City Trenches"  
 17. Joel Garreau, "Edge City"
  
3. Jan 30- Feb 1 The Political Economy of Cities: Conceptualizing Power  
 Ross & Levine, Ch. 3 Who Has Power? Decision Making and Urban Regimes  
 Ch. 4 "Formal Structure and Leadership Style"  
 Articles in Judd & Kantor:  
 1. Paul Peterson, "The Interest of the Limited City"  
 2. Clarence Stone, "Urban Regimes: A Research Perspective"  
 4. Sharon Zukin, "The Cultures of Cities"

Supplementary electronic: on Power and politics in New York:  
 Kevin Leonard (March/April 1999), "Elected Office in New York City: Just Another Temp Job" in *City Law*, Volume 5 No. 2 [http://www.citylaw.org/citylaw/v5n2\\_99/v5n2uri.htm](http://www.citylaw.org/citylaw/v5n2_99/v5n2uri.htm)  
 Andy Logan (1998) "Mayoral Follies, the 1969 Edition" in *New York Times*  
<http://www.nytimes.com/specials/nyc100/nyc1-logan.html>  
 Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani (January 14, 2000), "An Agenda to Prepare for the Next Century: 1999 State of the City" <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/om/html/99a/stcitytext.html>  
 Council Speaker Peter Vallone (January 11, 2000), "State of the City Address of the New Millennium"  
[http://www.council.nyc.ny.us/city\\_council/index.html](http://www.council.nyc.ny.us/city_council/index.html)

4. Feb 6- Feb 8 The Industrial City and Machine Politics  
 Ross & Levine, Ch. 5 "Machine Politics"  
 Articles in Judd & Kantor:  
 8. William Riordon, "To Hold Your District: Study Human Nature and Act Accordin"  
 9. Robert Merton, "The Latent Functions of the Machine"  
 10. Alan DiGaetano, "The Rise and Development of Urban Political Machines"  
 11. Steven Erie, "Big-City Rainbow Politics: Machines Revivodus?"  
 In Class Film: *The Great McGinty* (1941).

Supplementary Electronic : Lincoln Steffens, Introduction to "The Shame of Our Cities" (1904) at  
<http://www.american.edu/kdurr/steffens.html>

5. Feb 13- Feb 15 Urban Reform and the Progressive Era  
 Ross & Levine, Ch. 6 "Reform Politics"  
 Articles in Judd & Kantor:  
 12. Andrew White, "City Affairs Are Not Political"  
 13. Samuel Hayes, "The Politics of Reform in Municipal Government in the Progressive Era"  
 14. Amy Bridges, "Winning the West to Municipal Reform"
  
6. Feb 20- Feb 22 The Contemporary American City: Suburban Developments  
 Ross & Levine, Ch. 10 "Suburban Politics and Metropolitan America"  
 Ch. 11 "The Politics of Metropolitan Government"  
 Ch. 12 "Metropolitan Governance: The Politics of Regional Cooperation"  
 Articles in Judd & Kantor  
 16. Herbert Gans, "The Planners of Levittown"  
 18. Evan McKenzie, "Trouble in Privatopia"

In Class Film, *Region at Risk: A Plan for Our Future*

7. Feb 27- March 1 Identity Politics and the Gendered City  
In Ross & Levine, Ch. 9 Robyn Turner, "Women and the Gendered City"  
Articles in Judd & Kantor:  
3. Robert Bailey, "Beyond Regime Theory: Economism and [Sexual] Identity in Urban Politics"  
15. Lynn Appleton, "The Gender Regimes of American Cities"
8. March 6 – Review for Midterm  
March 8 – In Class Midterm

SPRING BREAK March 13 & 15

9. March 27-March 29 Situating the City in a Federal System  
Ross & Levine, Ch. 13 "Intergovernmental Relations" and Ch. 14 "Federal Policy Towards Cities"  
Articles in Judd & Kantor:  
30. Paul Peterson, "Who Should do What? Divided Responsibility in the Federal System"  
31. Schwartz and Volgy, "A View From City Hall"
10. April 3- April 5 The Politics and Policy of Urban Community Development  
Ross & Levine, Ch. 7 "Citizen Participation and Decentralization" and , Ch. 8 "Urban Bureaucracy and Service Delivery"  
Articles in Judd & Kantor:  
19. Howard, Lipsky & Marshall, "Citizen Participation in Urban Politics: Rise and Routinization"  
25. Todd Swanstrom, "Semisoveriegn Cities: The Politics of Urban Development"  
24. Nicholas Lehman, "The Myth of Community Development"
11. April 10-April 12 The Politics and Policy of Urban Economic Development  
Articles in Judd & Kantor:  
23. Dennis Judd, "Constructing the Tourist Bubble"  
22. Richard Foglesong, "When Disney Comes to Town"  
26. Paul Kantor & H. V. Savitch, "Can Politicians Bargain with Business?"  
28. Mike Davis, "Fortress Los Angeles:The Militarization of Urban Space"  
29. Devine & Wright, "The Greatest of Evils: Urban Poverty and the American Underclass"  
Electronic: M. Ulterino (Spring 1998), "The Great American Give Away: Are Cities Selling Themselves Short for the Sake of Redevelopment?" in *Metropolitics*, Vol. 4, No. 4 --  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/sipa/CURP/resources/metro/v01n0401.html>  
Dwayne Wyatt (September/October 1999), "The Growth Machine Goes to the Inner City" *Planners Network On-Lone*, Number 137 -- on-line. <http://www.plannersnetwork.org/137/wyatt.htm>  
Edward T. Rogowsky, Jill Simone Gross (1998), "To Bid or Not to BID? Economic Development in New York City" in *Metropolitics*, Vol. 1 No. 4.  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/sipa/CURP/resources/metro/v01n0402.html>
12. April 17-April 26 (LAST CLASS) The Future of Urban Development: Alternative Perspectives  
Friedman, Empowerment: The Politics of Alternative Development -- Entire Book  
  
Supplementary electronic: Megacities or Megaproblems? By Dave Coward Reproduced from Living Marxism issue 92, July/August 1996 [http://www.informinc.co.uk/LM/LM92/LM92\\_Futures.html](http://www.informinc.co.uk/LM/LM92/LM92_Futures.html)