

Barnard College  
Columbia University  
Fall 2006

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**Political Science V 3313x: American Urban Politics**  
**Mon/Wed 9:10 – 10:25 in 405 Milbank Hall**

Office hours Mon/ Wed. between 10:30am and 1 pm and Tu. 9:30 – 10:30 am. Distribution between Barnard (416A Lehman Hall) & Columbia (735 IAB) campuses TBA.

**Teaching Assistants:**

Eric Johnson [ebj2001@columbia.edu](mailto:ebj2001@columbia.edu) & Tamara Wilder [tew2101@columbia.edu](mailto:tew2101@columbia.edu)

This course on urban politics studies cities in the US, focusing on local government structures and relationships with other levels of government. Themes will include power and decision-making, the leadership and administration of cities, present day problems and strategies to deal with them, and past federal and state policies toward cities and their contemporary consequences. Among other topics students can expect to focus on urban political economy, political machines and urban reform, race and ethnicity in urban politics, regional efforts to contend with current problems besetting cities, federal laws and policies that have shaped the urban environment today, the day to day administration of cities, and urban problems such as fiscal strain, poverty, the burden of growth and attracting economic investment, the costs and consequences of urban terror and disaster and the global city. Increasingly, interest grows regarding the comparability of cities worldwide and we will touch on this topic. A number of speakers have been invited to speak in this course. You will be kept informed of their availability.

**Course requirements**

Attendance is taken in this class. An attendance sheet circulates in each class; it is your responsibility to sign it. Classroom discussion is anticipated. There will be one take-home **Midterm** examination distributed on **October 18** and due back **October 25** and a **Final Examination** to be given during exam week. A **7 to 10-page paper is due December 6**. Consultation with your teaching assistants or me is mandatory prior to topic selection deadline which is November 1. All readings are required and should be read *before* the class for which they are assigned. Your course grade is determined as follows: 30% for the midterm exam, 30% for the final exam, 30 % for the paper. Your participation (which includes attendance) accounts for 10%.

**Readings**

The books below are required and available for purchase at Columbia University Bookstore. These and other required readings are also on reserve at the Barnard Library Reserve Room. *This list is a tentative reading plan and articles and chapters will be added where appropriate.*

**Books**

Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2006)

Dennis R. Judd and Paul Kantor, *The Politics of Urban America: The Reader 4th Edition* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2006)

Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, *Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx* (New York: Scribner, 2003)

John P. Pelissero, Ed. *Cities, Politics, and Policy: A Comparative Analysis* (Washington D.C. CQ Press, 2003)

## Selected Articles and Chapters

These readings are on reserve at the Barnard Library and many can also be found online.

Katherine Boo, "Letter from South Texas 'The Churn: Creative Destruction in a Border Town,'" in *The New Yorker* 2004.03.29

Elvin K. Wyly, Norman J. Glickman, and Michael L. Lahr, "A Top 10 List of Things to Know About American Cities," *Cityscape* 3:3 (1998) 7-32.

Edward Glaeser, "Are Cities Dying?" in *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 12, no. 2: 139-60.

David Cutler and Edward Glaeser, "Are Ghettos Good or Bad?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112, no. 3: 827-73

Henry Aaron, Discussion of "Why Is Infrastructure Important?" in Alicia Munnell, ed., *Is There A Shortfall in Public Capital Investment?* Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Conference Series no. 34: 51-63.

Charles Tiebout, "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditure" in *Journal of Political Economy* (1956) 416-24.

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

Sklar & Hook "The Importance of Cities to the National Economy" in Cisneros, ed., *Intervoven Destinies* (New York: Norton, 1993) 48-79.

Jerry J. Salama, Michael H. Schill and Richard T. Roberts "This Works: Expanding Urban Housing," Center for Civic Innovation at the Manhattan Institute: *Civic Bulletin*, No. 35, February, 2003

Coalition for the Homeless, 1981 Callahan Consent Decree, *Callahan v Carey*

Xiaodi Yang and Ying Hua, "Wuhan vs. Pittsburgh: Urban Transformation of Old Industrial Cities under Globalization Impacts" 'Paper to City Futures: an international conference on globalism and urban change, University of Illinois at Chicago, July 2004.

Frank Eckardt, "Berlin A Capital City between Nation State and Global Gateways," Paper for the Conference "City Futures" at University of Illinois, Chicago (July 8-10, 2004)

## Speakers

Paul J. Browne, Deputy Commissioner, Public Information, NYPD, on urban security post 9/11

Peter A. Hatch, Director of Congressional Operations, Working Families Party WFP

Adrian Nicolle LeBlanc, author, *Random Family* on lives of the urban poor

Patricia Noonan, Senior VP, Economic Development and Policy, Partnership for New York City on housing

Muzzy Rosenblatt, Executive Director, Bowery Residents' Committee, Inc., on homelessness

September 6     **Introduction: How and Why Do We Study Cities?**

September 11    **Approaches to the Study of Cities and Governability**

J&S Ch. 1 The Evolution of City Politics in America

J&K Ch. 1 The Political Economy of Cities

J&S Ch. 2 Growth and Governance: The Political Legacy of America's Past

September 13, 18, 20   **America's Urban Profile**

***9/13 Why Cities Matter***

*Sklar and Hook*, "The Importance of Cities to the National Economy

*Why*, *Glickman, and Labr*, "A Top 10 List of Things to Know About American Cities," *Cityscape* 3:3 1998 7-32.

***9/18 Why Urbanists Matter***

*Pelissero*, "The Political Environment of Cities in the Twenty-first Century" Ch. 1 in Pelissero

Clarence Stone "Power and Governamnce in American Cities" Ch. 5 in Pelissero

*J&K* Ch. 2. Entrepreneurial Cities: The Economic Imperative

***9/20 The Global Business Environment***

*Katherine Boo*, "Letter from South Texas The Churn: Creative Destruction in a Border Town," in *The New Yorker* 2004.03.29

*Thomas J. Campanella* "Who says the Net makes cities obsolete?" in *Salon* magazine

*Xiaodi Yang and Ying Hua*, "Wuhan vs. Pittsburgh: Urban Transformation of Old Industrial Cities under Globalization Impacts" 'Paper to City Futures: an international conference on globalism and urban change, University of Illinois at Chicago, July 2004.

September 25, 27   **Machine and Reform Politics**

J&S Ch. 3 Party Machines and the Immigrants

J&K Ch. 3 Machines, Reform and the Political Imperative

J&S Ch. 4 The Reform Crusades

October 2, 4, 9, 11, 16   **National Urban Eras**

***10/2 The New Deal***

J&S Ch. 5 The New Deal Coalition and the Cities

***10/4 Urban Stress, Crisis and Change***

J&S Ch. 6 National Policy and the Divided Metropolis

J&K Ch. 4 Racial Politics and the Crisis of the Cities

***10/9 Intergovernmental Relations***

Michael J. Rich. "The Intergovernmental Environment" Ch. 2 in Pelissero.

***10/11 The Johnson Years and Urban Policy***

J&S Ch. 7 The Rise and Fall of National Urban Policy

***10/16 The Devolution of National Urban Policy***

Demetrios Caraley *Washington Abandons the Cities*

J&K Ch. 9 Faces of the New Federalism (not incl essay No. 25)

October 18 **Urban Financial Strain and Crisis**

***Take-home midterms distributed on October 18; due in class October 25***

Stein “The Politics of Revenue and Spending Policies” Ch. 9 in Pelissero.

J&S Ch. 12 City Finances and the Dynamics of Growth

Martin Shefter, “New York City’s Fiscal Crisis: The Politics of Inflation and Retrenchment,”  
in *The Public Interest* 48 (Summer 1977)

October 23 **Urban Growth Imperatives: Strategies**

Bingham “Economic Development Policies Ch. 10 in Pelissero

J&S Ch. 13 Reviving the Cities

J&K Ch. 7 Cities in the International Marketplace

See Partnership for New York City website on public/ private partnership projects

<http://www.nycp.org/>

October 25, 30, Nov. 1 **Urban Flight, Suburbanization and the Rise of the Sunbelt**

J&S Ch. 8 The Rise of the Sunbelt

J&K Ch. 5 Suburbia and the Divided Metropolis

J&S Ch. 9 Cities in Crisis

J&S Ch. 10 Enclave Politics: The Suburbs

***November 1 is the deadline for term paper topic consultation.***

***November 6 is an academic holiday***

November 8, 13 **Urban Poverty**

***11/8 The Poor***

Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, *Random Family*

Guest Speaker: Adrian Nicole LeBlanc

***11/13 The Outcasts***

*Ending Poverty: The Importance of Measuring and Knowing*

*Callaban v Carey*, Coalition for the Homeless, 1981 Callahan Consent Decree

Guest Speaker: Muzzy Rosenblatt, Executive Director, Bowery Residents' Committee

November 15 **Inequalities: How to Make Cities Fair for Working People**

Readings: TBA *Take Back Congress*

Guest Speaker: Peter A. Hatch, Director of Congressional Operations, Working Families Party

November 20 **The Importance of Housing**

Jerry J. Salama, Michael H. Schill and Richard T. Roberts "This Works: Expanding Urban Housing," Center for Civic Innovation at the Manhattan Institute: *Civic Bulletin*, No. 35, February, 2003

Guest Speaker: Patricia Noonan, Senior V. P. Economic Development and Policy, Partnership for New York City

November 22 TBA

November 27, 29 **Decision makers : Who Governs?**

Stein, "Mayoral Politics," Ch. 6 in Pelissero  
Krebs and Pelissero, "City Councils," Ch. 7 in Pelissero

TBA Readings: New Orleans and Federal/State Roles

December 4 **21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Security**

Reading *Defending the City* handout

Guest Speaker: Paul J. Browne, Deputy Commissioner, Public Information, NYPD

December 6 **Economic Development Consequences: The Question of Unitary Interest**

**Papers Due**

Readings TBA

December 11 **Are Cities 'Governable' Today?**

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