

Barnard College
Political Science
Fall 2002

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Office: 401 Lehman Hall
Office Hours: Tues. 6:30 – 8:30 PM

POLS V3313 AMERICAN URBAN POLITICS
304 Barnard Hall
Tues Thur 9:10-10:25AM

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the study of urban politics. A central theme of the course is the degree to which urban residents can govern themselves and their communities, and whether urban politics can solve urban problems. American cities exist within one of the most complex and disorganized political systems in the world. We will take a look at how urban governance and power have been exercised historically, and how political scientists have theorized city power. From there, we will examine cities as crucibles for race and ethnic relations in the U.S., and then consider why we have no national urban policy and whether we need one. Next, a tour of some current pressing problems plaguing the modern American city, an exploration of suburbanization and what it has done to cities, and whether the "new regionalism" can help to revive or stabilize urban communities and economies. We will conclude with a consideration of issues in urban politics today.

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. I will also provide you with a list of videos and films that will supplement your education in urban politics.

Course Requirements and Grading

You are required to read the material assigned, to come to class, and to participate in class discussion of the readings. There will be an in-class mid-term essay exam (30%), an in-class final exam (40%), and one 8-10-page term paper (30%) due November 21.

Reading Schedule

All reading assignments are required. The following books have been ordered at Labyrinth Books, 536 West 112th Street:

Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics: Private Power and Public Policy* 3rd Ed. (New York: Longman, 2002)

Dennis R. Judd and Paul Kantor, *The Politics of Urban America: A Reader* 3rd Ed. (New York: Longman, 2002)

Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-first Century* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2001)

Please note, this is a **TENTATIVE** reading schedule. You can expect the schedule to change. I will single out what to read, when to read it, and where to find it as we progress.

1. Introduction to the Study of Urban Politics

September 3 Why study urban politics?

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 1

Elliott D. Sclar and Walter Hook, "The Importance of Cities to the National Economy," in Henry G. Cisneros, ed., *Interwoven Destinies: Cities and the Nation*

September 5 The city in theory and the Constitutional order

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 2

Robert A. Dahl, "The City in the Future of Democracy," *American Political Science Review* LXI(4) December 1967, 953-70

Norton E. Long, "The City As a Political Community," *Journal of Community Psychology* 14, January 1986, 72-80

September 10 Are cities governable?

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.

Peter Dreier, John H. Mollenkopf and Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters*, chapters 1-2

2. Who Has the Power?

September 12 Big city machine politics

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 3

Judd and Kantor, #7: William L. Riordan, "To Hold Your District: Study Human Nature and Act Accordin';" #8: Robert K. Merton, "The Latent Functions of the Machine;" #9: Steven P. Erie, "Big-City Rainbow Politics: Machines Revividus?"

September 17 Urban reform and its consequences

Judd and Swanstrom, chapters 4 and 5

Judd and Kantor, #10: Andrew D. White, "City Affairs Are Not Political;" #11: Samuel P. Hays, "The Politics of Reform in Municipal Government in the Progressive Era;" #12: Amy Bridges, "Winning the West to Municipal Reform"

September 19 Community power vs. pluralist approaches

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 6

Robert J. Waste, "Community Power and Pluralist Theory," in Robert J. Waste, ed., *Community Power and Pluralist Theory*

September 24 Do politics matter? Structuralism left and right

Judd and Kantor, #1: Paul E. Peterson, "The Interests of the Limited City;" #19: Richard Foglesong, "When Disney Comes to Town;" #20: Peter Eisinger, "The Politics of Bread and Circuses;" #22: Paul Kantor and H.V. Savitch, "Can Politicians Bargain with Business? A Theoretical and Comparative Perspective on Urban Development"

Charles Tiebout, "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditure," *Journal of Political Economy* 64 (1956): 416-24

John Manley, "Neo-Pluralism: A Class Analysis of Pluralism I and Pluralism II," *American Political Science Review* 77 (June 1983): 368-83

Susan E. Clarke and Andrew Kirby, "In Search of the Corpse: The Mysterious Case of Local Politics," *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 25 (March 1990): 389-412

September 26 Neo-pluralist synthesis: Regime theory and its critics

Judd and Kantor, #2: Clarence N. Stone, "Urban Regimes: A Research Perspective;" and #3: Todd Swanstrom, "Semisovereign Cities: The Politics of Urban Development;" #17: William Sites, "The Limits of Urban Regime Theory: New York City Under Koch, Dinkins, and Giuliani"

Clarence Stone, "Social Stratification, Nondecisionmaking and the Study of Community Power," *American Politics Quarterly* 10 (July 1982)

October 1 Identity politics in the city

Judd and Kantor, #4: Elaine B. Sharp, "Culture Wars and City Politics"

Robert Bailey, selection from *Gay Politics, Urban Politics*

October 3 CLASSES CANCELLED

3. Race, Ethnicity, and Class in Urban Politics

October 8 Urban social movements

Judd and Kantor, #23: Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders

Susan S. Fainstein and Norman I. Fainstein, "Economic Restructuring and the Rise of Urban Social Movements," *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 21 (December 1985)

October 10 Minority incorporation

Judd and Kantor, #16: Christopher Howard, Michael Lipsky, and Dale Rogers Marshall, "Citizen Participation in Urban Politics: Rise and Routinization"

Peter Eisinger, "Black Mayors and the Politics of Racial Economic Advancement," in Harlan Hahn and Charles H. Levine, *Readings in Urban Politics, Past, Present, and Future*

Essays by Susan Howell, and Jose Cruz in Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh and Lawrence J. Hanks, *Black and Multiracial Politics in America*

Essays by Browning, Marshall and Tabb, Pinderhughes, Warren, and Sonenshein in Rufus P. Browning, Dale Rogers Marshall, and David H. Tabb, eds., *Racial Politics in American Cities*

October 15 Persistent inequality

Judd and Kantor, #24: Mike Davis, "Fortress Los Angeles, The Militarization of Urban Space;" #25: Dennis R. Judd, "Enclosure, Community, and Public Life"

Peter Dreier, John H. Mollenkopf and Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters*, chapter 3

October 17 IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM

4. The Failure of a National Urban Policy

October 22 The rise of national urban policy

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 7

Peter Dreier, John H. Mollenkopf and Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters*, chapter 4

Alice O'Connor, "Swimming Against the Tide: A Brief History of Federal Policy in Poor Communities," in Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens, *Urban Problems and Community Development*

October 24 The fall of national urban policy

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 8

Judd and Kantor, #27: Paul E. Peterson, "Who Should Do What? Divided Responsibility in the Federal System;" #28: Peter Eisinger, "City Politics in an Era of Federal Devolution"

Demetrious Caraley, "Washington Abandons the Cities," *Political Science Quarterly* 107 (Spring 1992): 1-30

Robert A. Beauregard, "Federal Policy and Postwar Urban Decline: A Case of Government Complicity?" *Housing Policy Debate* 12 (2001): 129-151

5. The Crisis of the Modern American City

October 29 Violence

Essays by Rhonda M. Williams, Michael Omi and Howard Winant, and Melvin L. Oliver, James H. Johnson, Jr., and Walter C. Ferrell, Jr. in Robert Gooding-Williams, *Reading Rodney King, Reading Urban Uprising*

Amnesty International, "Police Brutality, A Pattern of Abuse," in *United States of America: Rights For All*

Patrick D. Joyce, "Protest or Violence: Political Process and Patterns of Black-Korean Conflict," in Michael Jones-Correa, *Governing American Cities*

H. V. Savitch and Grigoriy Ardashev, "Does Terror Have an Urban Future?" *Urban Studies* 38 (2001): 2515-33

October 31 Housing

Kenneth T. Rosen and Ted Dienstfrey, "The Economics of Housing Services in Low-Income Neighborhoods," in Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens, *Urban Problems and Community Development*

Peter Dreier, "The New Politics of Housing: How to Rebuild the Constituency for a Progressive Federal Housing Policy," *Journal of the American Planning Association* 63 (1997): 5-27

November 5 Poverty, welfare and wages

Peter Dreier, John H. Mollenkopf and Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters*, chapter 5

William T. Dickens, "Rebuilding Urban Labor Markets: What Community Development Can Accomplish," in Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens, *Urban Problems and Community Development*

Isaac Martin, "Dawn of the Living Wage: The Diffusion of a Redistributive Municipal Policy," *Urban Affairs Review* 36 (March 2001): 470-96

November 7 Fiscal crisis

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 12

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

Roger Friedland, Frances Fox Piven, and Robert R. Alford, "Political Conflict, Urban Structure, and the Fiscal Crisis," in Douglas E. Ashford, ed., *Comparing Public Policies; New Concepts and Methods*

Helen F. Ladd, "Big-City Finances," in George E. Peterson, ed., *Big-City Politics, Governance, and Fiscal Constraints*

November 12 Community and economic development

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 13

Essays by Margaret Weir, Sara E. Stoutland, and Ross Gittell and J. Phillip Thompson in Ronald F. Ferguson and William T. Dickens, *Urban Problems and Community Development*

6. Cities and Their Regions

November 14 Suburbanization

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 10

Judd and Kantor, #13: Lynn M. Appleton, "The Gender Regimes of American Cities;" #14: Michael N. Danielson, "Suburban Autonomy;" #15: Joel Garreau, "Edge City"

Peter Dreier, John H. Mollenkopf and Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters*, chapter 6

November 19 The new regionalism

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 11

Judd and Kantor, #30: Myron Orfield, "Conflict or Consensus? Forty Years of Minnesota Metropolitan Politics;" #32: Fred Siegel, "Is Regional Government the Answer?"

Peter Dreier, John H. Mollenkopf and Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters*, chapter 7

7. Urban Politics Today

November 21 Urban liberalism and coalition politics

Judd and Swanstrom, chapter 14

Judd and Kantor, #26: William Julius Wilson, "Building a Foundation for Multiracial Cooperation"

Peter Dreier, John H. Mollenkopf and Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters*, chapter 8

Essays by John Mollenkopf, David Olson, and Timothy Ross, Peter Kwong, Edward J.W. Park and John S.W. Park, and Matthew McKeever in Michael Jones-Correa, *Governing American Cities*

TERM PAPER DUE

November 26 Urban populism and the neighborhood movement

Judd and Kantor, #21: Nicholas Lemann, "The Myth of Community Development"

December 3 Urban authoritarianism and its enemies

Readings TBA

December 5 Urban citizenship and the global order

Robert A. Beauregard and Anna Bounds, "Urban Citizenship," in Engin F. Isin, ed., *Democracy, Citizenship and the Global City*

Date TBA IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM

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