

Barnard College/Columbia University
American Urban Politics: Polsci W3313
Mon & Wed 2:40-3:55
Spring 2002

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AMERICAN URBAN POLITICS

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to urban politics in the United States. We will study urban politics and elections as well as policy making in big cities. The course will also focus on historical and theoretical questions relevant to cities and urban politics. Students are required to complete reading assignments prior to class meetings, attend class regularly and write two short essay assignments (5-8 pages), and a take home final essay exam. The papers will be due on February 27th and April 8th. The questions will be distributed a week before the papers are due.

All books which have been ordered for the class are available at Labyrinth Bookstore. In addition, Columbia Copy Center at 2790 Broadway between 107th and 108th has prepared a reader which you should purchase. The reader contains all the articles marked with an asterisk in the syllabus.

Grading

Two 5-8 page papers and one final exam
Each paper 24%
Exam 45%
Attendance and participation-7%

I. Introduction-Studying Cities and Urban Politics

January 23, 28

Reading: Davis *Ecology of Fear* Chapters 1-2

II. History and Theories of Urban Politics

January 30, February 4, 6

Reading: Davis *City of Quartz* Prologue and Chapters 1-2,
Judge et. al. *Theories of Urban Politics* Chaps 1-4,
Judd and Kantor *The Politics of Urban America* p. 1-79

III. Politics and Elections Pre-War

February 11,13,18

Reading: Caro *The Power Broker* Part II,*
Riordan *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall* all,
Kessner *Fiorello LaGuardia and the Making of Modern New York* Chapters 3,6-8,*
Judd and Swanstrom Chapters 2-4,
Judd and Kantor 122-165

IV. Politics and Elections Post-War

February 20, 25, 27, March 4, 6

Reading: Davis *City of Quartz* Chapter 3,
Grimshaw *Bitter Fruit* Parts 3 and 4,*
Sonenshein *Politics in Black and White* Parts 2 and 3,*
Brecher and Horton *Power Failure* part II

V. Federalism and Cities

March 11, 13

Reading: Judd and Swanstrom Chapters 5-7,
Judd and Kantor 353-370

VI. Budget Making and Fiscal Policy

March 25, 27

Reading: Fuchs *Mayors and Money* Chapters 1,2,7 and 8*
Shefter *Fiscal Crisis/Political Crisis* Chapters 3-4,*
Judd and Swanstrom Chapter 12

VI. Policy Making

April 1, 3, 8

Reading: Judd and Swanstrom Chapters 13-14,
Judd and Kantor 236-352

VII. Urban Planning and Urban Villages

April 10, 17

Reading: Jacobs *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* Chapters 1, 2, 7-12, 15,*
Caro Chapters 22, 23, 37, 38*

Fainstein *The City Builders: Property, Politics, and Planning in London and New York*,
all

VIII. Suburbs and Metropolitanism

April 17, 22

Reading: Orfield *Metropolitica* all,
Judd and Swanstrom Chapters 8-11,
Judd and Kantor 166-196,

IX. The Future

April 24, 29, May 1

Reading: DeLeon *Left Coast City* Chapters 1-4,*
Davis *Ecology of Fear* Chapters 3-7

X. Conclusion and Review

May 6

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