

Barnard College, Columbia University
Department of Political Science

POLS V3313 AMERICAN URBAN POLITICS

Syllabus as of August 26, 2011

Fall 2011

Mon Wed 2:40-3:55 in 323 Milbank Hall

Professor Flora S. Davidson e-mail: fdavidson@barnard.edu
416 B Lehman Hall (Barnard Library building) phone: 212 854-6181
Regular Drop-In Office Hours: Wed 4:15-6pm; AND by appointment

Teaching Assistants

Ben Schupmann bas2181@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 306 Milbank
2. Mondays 5:10-6 in 306 Milbank
3. Tuesdays 6:10-7 in 227 Milbank
4. Tuesdays 7:10-8 in 227 Milbank

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 absence of a national urban policy; and urban problems such as fiscal strain, poverty and inequality; the burden of growth; the challenges of shrinkage and the imperative to attract economic investment. We also closely follow the impact of the recent economic recession on cities and states. Students are expected to keep up with major developments in the news, especially as they relate to topics covered in class.

Learning Objectives

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. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Describe the history and basic structure of the American political system through an understanding of local government structures and processes and their relationships with other levels of government.
- Explain the institutions, procedures and actors who function within American cities and the social forces that shape opportunity and power.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the distinctive historical, social, political, demographic and economic forces which have shaped American cities and how these have changed over time.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of some of the contemporary challenges confronting cities with regard to fiscal stability, political incorporation, economic growth and governance in a global era.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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|--|-------------------|
| <i>Attendance & Participation in required weekly discussion section</i> | <i>10%</i> |
| <i>Take-Home Midterm</i> | <i>30%</i> |
| <i>Book Review selected from a list of books</i> | <i>30%</i> |
| <i>In class Final Exam during exam period</i> | <i>30%</i> |

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Week of September 19:</i> | <i>Weekly discussion sections begin to meet</i> |
| <i>Wednesday, October 12:</i> | <i>Take Home Midterm distributed in class</i> |
| <i>Monday, October 24:</i> | <i>Take Home Midterm due at beginning of class</i> |
| <i>Monday, November 28:</i> | <i>Book Review due at beginning of class</i> |
| <i>Wednesday, December 21:</i> | <i>Final Exam from 1 – 4pm in room TBA</i> |

Readings: *Additional articles and other selections may be added to this reading list. Changes will be announced well in advance in class and on Courseworks.* All reading assignments are required. You are expected to purchase the books listed below. ALL other articles and short selections in books will be available as PDF files which can be accessed via Courseworks in Class Files. Short film clips listed will be screened in class. Separate outside screenings will be scheduled for longer films. All films listed are also available for individual viewing in the media collection on the third floor of the Barnard library. Occasionally, additional articles and other selections will be distributed in class only.

Books: The following books have been ordered at the Columbia University Bookstore (Barnes & Noble) 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*, 8th edition, (New York: Pearson Longman, 2012 – listed as *Judd & Swanstrom on syllabus*)

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. Introduction

Wed, Sept 7 Why Study Urban Politics?

Parag Khanna, "Beyond City Limits," *Foreign Policy*, Sept/Oct 2010

Mon, Sept 12 Early Urban History

Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America*, 8th edition, (New York: Pearson Longman, 2012) Ch. 1. The Evolution of City Politics in America; Ch. 2 The Legacy of America's Urban Past. pp 1-48.

Film Clip: *New York: A Documentary Film*: Episode 2: Order & Disorder 1825-1865. Chapter 4: The Great Migration.

II. The Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Urban Development

Wed, Sept 14 Machine Politics

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 3 Party Machines and the Immigrants pp. 49-75

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

Film Clip: *New York: A Documentary Film*: Episode 3: Sunshine & Shadow 1865-1898. Chapter 4: Boss Tweed

Mon, Sept 19 Machine Politics cont'd

Wed, Sept 21 Reform Politics

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 4 The Reform Crusades, pp.76 -110

Film Clips: *New York: A Documentary Film*: Episode 4: The Power & the People 1898-1918. Chapter 8: The Reform Movement; Chapter 9: The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire.

Mon, Sept 26 The Depression, the New Deal and the Rise of National Urban Policy

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority pp.111-136

Hilary Ballon, "Robert Moses and Urban Renewal," pp 94-115 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).

III. Politics, Power & Decision-Making

Mon, Oct 17

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).

Wed, Oct 19

Who Governs and Who Should Govern?

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).

Elizabeth Strom, "Rethinking the Politics of Downtown Development" *Journal of Urban Affairs*, Vol 30, No.1 (2008).

Mon, Oct 24

Who Governs and Who Should Govern? cont'd

Note: Monday, October 24 - Take Home Midterm due at the beginning of class.

IV. The Urban Crisis in the late 20th Century- Challenges to Governance

Wed, Oct 26

The Rise and Fall of National Urban Policy

Film clips – *Eyes on the Prize II: America at the racial crossroads, 1965-1985, Episode 2: Two Societies*

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 6. The City-Suburban Divide, pp. 138-176 and Ch. 8 Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race, pp. 207-233.

Mon, Oct 31

Governance and the Politics of Race

“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.

The Negro Family: The Case for National Action (commonly known as the Moynihan Report.) United States. Department of Labor. Office of Policy Planning & Research, Washington: USGPO: 1965. Reprinted in 1981 by Greenwood Press.

The Moynihan Report Revisited: Lessons and Reflections after Four Decades, Douglas Massey and Robert Sampson (eds), *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, California: Sage, January 200. Selections by James Q. Wilson and William Julius Wilson, pp 28-46.

Roberts, Sam, ed., *America’s Mayor: John V. Lindsay and the Reinvention of New York*, (New York: Columbia University Press: 2010). Selections by by Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Nicholas Pileggi and John Mollenkopf.

Wed, Nov 2

The Urban Crisis & Public Policy in Perspective

Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf & Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-first Century*, 2nd edition revised, (University Press of Kansas: 2004), Chapter 4: The Roads Not Taken: How Government Policies Promote Economic Segregation and Suburban Sprawl, pp. 103-151.

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

Mon, Nov 7

Academic Holiday – No Class

V. Governing the Multiethnic Metropolis

Wed, Nov 9

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.

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).

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).

Mon, Nov 14

Urban Finances, Financial Strain and Crisis

Judd & Swanstrom Ch. 12 The Metropolitan Chase pp. 320-349

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 16

Urban Finances, Financial Strain and Crisis, cont’d

Mon, Nov 21

Political Incorporation and Minority Mayors

Judd & Swanstrom, Ch 14 Governing the Divided City pp.385-413

Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf & Todd Swanstrom, *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-first Century*, 2nd edition revised, (University Press of Kansas: 2004), Chapter 5. What Cities Can and Cannot Do to Address Poverty, pp. 133-172.

Wed, Nov 23

Thanksgiving travel day – No class

Mon, Nov 28

Political Incorporation and Minority Mayors, cont’d

Note: Book Review due Monday, November 28 at beginning of class.

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

Gwen Ifill, *The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama* (New York: Doubleday, 2009), Ch. 7. Cory Booker, pp. 137-157.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance & Participation in required discussion section once a week. 10%

Discussion Sections begin meeting during the week of September 19 and are based on discussion questions to be distributed in advance. 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. Higher grades will be used to reward active section participation, if that participation demonstrates that the student has completed and understands 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 **Wednesday, October 12**. The questions will be based on assigned readings and lectures through October 12 and no outside reading will be required. The midterm will be due at the beginning of class on **Monday, October 24**.

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 the beginning of class on **Monday, November 28**.

Final Exam during exam period 30%

The final exam will be held on the official date and time set by Columbia University – currently projected as **Wednesday, December 21 from 1:10-4 pm**. Be sure that your travel plans enable you to be on campus to take the exam on this day and time. The in class exam will consist of three sections: Part I is a list of short identification questions; Parts II and III are 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 use of electronic devices such as a laptop, i-pad, notebook, or smart-phone will be permitted for any reason during the exam unless the student has made prior arrangements through the Office of Disability Services.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

Optional: Attendance and submission of a one page response paper for up to two public events or exhibits related to this course during the semester. Your response paper should describe the date and type of event or exhibit you attended and discuss its relevance to the themes and issues covered in our course.

Announcements of relevant events/exhibits will be circulated as they become available.

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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 2:40pm and I in turn will end class promptly at 3:55pm. 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, i-phones, blackberries or similar electronic 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 take notes using a laptop, tablet or i-pad 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.