Course Description
This course provides an introduction to issues and challenges confronting American cities and metropolitan areas and the policy remedies and options available to government and the private sector. First, we examine political, social, and economic explanations for the origin and evolution of urban environments. We trace the historical development of local government institutions, analyze urban coalitions, and investigate distributions of power. The second half of the course analyzes urban policies in the areas of growth, education, culture wars, housing, and poverty particularly in the postwar period.

Intended Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):
At the end of this course students should be able to

1. Communicate a thorough understanding of the structure and operation of local political systems in the United States (PLO 1 and PLO 4)  
2. Fluently consume and critique politically oriented literature on American cities (PLO 2)  
3. Explain the relationship between local politics and policy making as well as evaluate policy solutions in the areas of growth, education, culture wars, housing, and poverty (PLO3, PLO 4, and PLO 5)

General Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for Political Science:

1. An understanding of the processes, theories, and empirical regularities of political institutions and political behavior in the student’s chosen emphasis area: American politics, comparative politics, or international relations.  
2. An ability to employ critical thinking and demonstrate social scientific literacy, including basic quantitative literacy.  
3. A capacity to utilize contemporary social science research methods to conduct rigorous research on political phenomena.  
4. Effective written communication skills, especially the ability to convey complex concepts and information in a clear and concise manner.  
5. An ability to apply abstract theory and research methods to understand contemporary political events and public policies.
Requirements and Expectations
You are expected to attend seminar and do all of the reading. The assigned materials must be read before class on the date listed in the syllabus. Seminar will be a mixture of lecture and discussion and will be based on the assumption that you have completed the reading for that day and are able to analyze the content. Please note that 10% of your grade is based on participation in class discussions. Your participation will allow me to assess your attainment of SLOs 1, 2, and 3.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized one third of a grade for every 24 hours that they are late. Assignments more than 72 hours late will not be accepted. Unstapled assignments will not be accepted. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Grades will be based on both substance and style. Use proper grammar, appropriate language, and proofread and spell-check the final copy of every assignment.

Your grade will be based on four components.

2 Reading response papers (15% each): 30%
Research Paper: 30%
Take home Final Exam: 30%
Seminar Participation: 10%

Reading Response Papers
Twice during the semester you will be required to write a short (3-4 page) paper critically evaluating the day’s readings. Your paper should highlight the most interesting and important points arising from the readings and should offer 3-4 discussion questions for the class. These papers must be analytical (not just summaries): they should scrutinize and critique the logic and evidence marshaled on behalf of the authors’ arguments. You will sign up for paper dates during the first meeting of class. These papers will assess your attainment of SLO 2.

Research Paper
You are required to write a research paper examining any urban issue, theory, or policy discussed in class. Additional information on this assignment will be posted on UCMCrops. Paper topics should be developed in consultation with Professor Trounstine. A one paragraph description of your topic is due in class on November 4th. Final papers should be 8-10 double-spaced pages and are due on December 9th in class. This assignment will assess your attainment of SLO 3.

Final Exam
The final exam will be a cumulative take-home exam. You will have 36 hours to complete it. It will be available on UCMCrops starting at 9am on December 15th and will be due by 9pm on December 16th. You will turn upload your completed exam to UCMCrops. The final exam will assess your attainment of SLOs 1, 2, and 3.

Readings
All required readings are available on UCMCrops.

Academic Honesty
Cheating will not be tolerated. You must write your own papers and your own exams. Any student caught cheating will receive a failing grade in the class and be referred to UCM administration for disciplinary actions. Keep in mind that the technology that allows students to retrieve papers from the Internet also allows instructors to find those papers. If you are unclear what constitutes plagiarism please talk to Professor Trounstine.
Course Outline
Week 1
August 26th: Introduction
Lewis Mumford, “What is a City?” in The City Reader

Week 2
August 31st: Development of American Cities and Suburbs

September 2nd: NO Class (APSA Conference)

Week 3
September 7th: NO Class (Labor Day Holiday)

September 9th: Historical Evolution of Cities: Machines
Harold F. Gosnell, Negro Politicians (U of Chicago, 1977 [1935]), chapter 7

Week 4
September 14th: Historical Evolution of Cities: Machines

September 16th: Historical Evolution of Cities: Reform
Trounstone, Jessica. 2008. Political Monopolies in American Cities: The Rise and Fall of Bosses and Reformers, pgs 21-61, 139-172
**Week 5**

September 21st: Legacy of Reform

Welch, Susan and Timothy Bledsoe, Urban Reform and Its Consequences, (Chicago, 1988), Chapters 1,6


September 23rd: Power Structures

Clarence N. Stone, Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1989), chapter 1


**Week 6**

September 28th: The Water Front Documentary, Elizabeth Miller


September 30th: City Bureaucracy & Services


**Week 7**

October 5th: City Finance

Paul Peterson, City Limits, Chapters 2-3


October 7th: City Economies


Sterngold, James, “Orange County Bankruptcy: The Poor Feel the Most Pain,” New York Times, December 5, 1995
Week 8
October 12th: Evolving Social, Demographic, Racial, and Ethnic Composition of Cities

October 14th: Street Fight Documentary, Marshall Curry

Week 9
October 19th: Racial and Ethnic Group Politics

October 21st: Urban Elections
Trounstine, Jessica, “Information, Turnout, and Incumbency in Local Elections”

Week 10
October 26th: Divisions, Suburbs
Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton, *American Apartheid*, Chapters 1, 2, 4

October 28th: Divisions, Suburbs
Week 11
November 2\textsuperscript{nd}: Solutions to Division

November 4\textsuperscript{th}: National Urban Policy and Local Policy Choices
***Paper Topics Due***

Week 12
November 9\textsuperscript{th}: Work, Welfare, and Poverty
William Julius Wilson, When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor (1996), Chapter 1

November 11\textsuperscript{th}: NO Class (Veteran’s Day Holiday)

Week 13
November 16\textsuperscript{th}: Theories of Growth
Paul Peterson, City Limits (Chicago, 1981), Chapter 7
John Logan and Harvey Molotch, Urban Fortunes (California, 1987), Chapter 3
Eisinger, Peter, “the Politics of Bread and Circuses,” Urban Affairs Review, vol 35, no. 3 January 2000

November 18\textsuperscript{th}: Tourism as a Growth Strategy
Fogelsong, Rick. Married to the Mouse, Yale University Press (July, 2001), chapters 1,4,9
Dennis Judd, “Constructing the Tourist Bubble” pp. 35-54, in The Tourist City, ed. Dennis Judd and Susan Fainstein (Yale University Press 1999)
Mark F. Bernstein, "Sports Stadium Boondoggle" (pp. 45-57), The Public Interest (132, Summer 1998).
Week 14

November 23rd: Urban Space and Planning
Duany, Andres and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, “The Neighborhood, the District, and the Corridor,” in LeGates, Richard and Frederic Stout ed. The City Reader

November 25th: Wal-Marticization: Store Wars Documentary
Stacy Mitchell, “Main Street Fights Back” in The Responsive Community Vol. 10, #1

Week 15

November 30th: Growth through Retail Development
Hopkins, Daniel, 2004, “Discounting Politics: The Impact of Large Retailers on American Communities”
Paul G. Lewis and Elisa Barbour, California Cities and the Local Sales Tax (Public Policy Institute of California, 1999), Chapters 4,5
http://www.mercedcountytimes.net/content/2009-03-05/00679
http://www.mercedstopwalmart.org/

December 2nd: Education
Hennig, Jeff, “What we can and can’t learn from other cities,” http://www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov/advocacy/schools/files/csghenig%20p.pdf

Week 16

December 7th: Culture Wars
Susan B. Clarke, “Ideas, Interests, and Institutions Shaping Abortion Politics in Denver”, pp. 43 – 62 in Elaine Sharp, ed, Culture Wars and Local Politics (Kansas, 1999)
Rick Musser, “Fred Phelps versus Topeka”, pp, 158-177 in Elaine B. Sharp, editor, Culture Wars and Local Politics (Kansas, 1999)

December 9th: Final Review (come with questions)
***Research Papers Due***

***Final Exam Posted December 15th due December 16th***