

**Urban Politics
POLI 106**

Professor Trounstone

Fall 2009

Office: Classroom Building 352

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 9-11am

Office Hours Sign-up: www.mysignup.com/trounstone

Course Website: UCMCrops

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

Bruce Katz and Robert E. Lang, eds. *Redefining Urban & Suburban America: Evidence from Census 2000*. Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2003. Chapters 2, 5, 8, 12 (available through ebrary)

September 2nd: NO Class (APSA Conference)

Week 3

September 7th: NO Class (Labor Day Holiday)

September 9th: Historical Evolution of Cities: Machines

Stone, Clarence. "Urban Political Machines: Taking Stock", *PS Political Science and Politics*, Vol 29. No.3 (September 1996)

Harold F. Gosnell, *Negro Politicians* (U of Chicago, 1977 [1935]), chapter 7

Erie, Steven. 1988. *Rainbow's End*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pgs 1-24, 67-106

Week 4

September 14th: Historical Evolution of Cities: Machines

Erie, Steven. 1988. *Rainbow's End*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pgs 236-246

Merton, Robert K. *Social Theory and Social Structure*, The Free Press 1957, pgs 114-118, 125-136

Alan Ehrenhalt, "The Paradox of Corrupt Yet Effective Leadership," *New York Times*, September 30, 2002.

Morton, David, "Little Big Man," *The New Republic*, January 29, 2007

September 16th: Historical Evolution of Cities: Reform

White, Andrew. 1890. "The Government of American Cities," *Forum*: 213-216

Trounstine, 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

Jim Yardley, "In Houston, a 'Nonpartisan Race Is Anything But,'" *New York Times*, November 30, 2001.

Jonathan P. Hicks, "A Model City in Nonpartisan Correctness," *New York Times*, October 21, 2003

September 23rd: Power Structures

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

Clarence Stone. 1993. "Urban Regimes and the Capacity to Govern – A Political-Economy Approach," *Journal of urban affairs*. 15 (1): 1 -28

Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz, "Two Faces of Power," *American Political Science Review* 56 (December 1962), 947-952.

Kantor, Paul and H.V. Savitch. 1993, "Can Politicians Bargain with Business?" *Urban Affairs Review*. 29(2): 230-255

Week 6

September 28th: The Water Front Documentary, Elizabeth Miller

Stein, Lana. 1991. *Holding Bureaucrats Accountable*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, chapters 1 & 4

September 30th: City Bureaucracy & Services

Theodore Lowi, "Machine Politics, Old and New", *The Public Interest* No. 9 (Fall 1967) pp. 83-92

Michael Lipsky, *Street-Level Bureaucracy, Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Service*, (Russell Sage, 1980) Chapters 1-2

Week 7

October 5th: City Finance

Paul Peterson, *City Limits*, Chapters 2-3

David C. Perry, "Building the City Through the Back Door: The Politics of Debt, Law, and Public Infrastructure," in *Building the Public City: The Politics, Governance, and Finance of Public Infrastructure*, *Urban Affairs Annual Review* 43 (Thousand Oaks, Ca.: Sage, 1995), 202-232

October 7th: City Economies

Paul E. Peterson, "Big Cities: Is the Problem Financial?" in *The Price of Federalism* (Washington: Brookings Institution, 1995), 153-174.

Glaeser, Ed. 1998. "Are Cities Dying?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 12, No. 2

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
Lopez, David and Yen Espiritu, "Panethnicity in the United States: a theoretical framework," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol 13 No 2 (April 1990)
Hattam, Victoria. 2007. *In the Shadow of Race: Jews, Latinos, and Immigrant Politics in the United States*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. p1-20, 157-177
Sugrue, Thomas. 2005. *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*. Pp 211-218, 230-258
- October 14th: Street Fight Documentary, Marshall Curry

Week 9

- October 19th: Racial and Ethnic Group Politics
Rufus P. Browning, Dale Rogers Marshall, and David H. Tabb, *Racial Politics in American Cities* 3d ed. (New York: Longman, 2002), Chapters 1, 2, 6
- October 21st: Urban Elections
Trounstine, Jessica, "Information, Turnout, and Incumbency in Local Elections"
Hajnal, Zoltan and Jessica Trounstine. 2005. "Why Turnout Does Matter," *Journal of Politics*
Kaufmann, Karen M. (1998) *Urban Affairs Review* "Racial Conflict and Political Choice: A Study of Mayoral Voting Behavior in Los Angeles and New York" (655-684).

Week 10

- October 26th: Divisions, Suburbs
Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton, *American Apartheid*, Chapters 1,2,4
Robert B. Reich, "Separation of the Successful," *New York Times Magazine*, January 20, 1991.
- October 28th: Divisions, Suburbs
Michael N. Danielson, *The Politics of Exclusion* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1976), 1-26.
Drier, Peter, et al. 2004. *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the 21st century*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas. 64-102
Glaeser, Ed and Matthew Kahn, "Sprawl and Urban Growth," p1-9
<http://www.economics.harvard.edu/pub/hier/2003/HIER2004.pdf>
Ehrenhalt, Alan, "Trading Places," *The New Republic*, August 13, 2008

Week 11

November 2nd: Solutions to Division

Altshuler, Alan et al. 1999. *Governance and Opportunity in Metropolitan America*, Washington D.C: National Academy Press. p3-9, 79-115

Vincent Ostrom, Charles M. Tiebout and Robert Warren, "The Organization of Government in Metropolitan Areas," *American Political Science Review* 55 (1961), 831-842.

November 4th: National Urban Policy and Local Policy Choices

*****Paper Topics Due*****

Eisinger, Peter, "City Politics in an Era of Federal Devolution," *Urban Affairs Review*, vol 33. no 3, January 1998.

John Kincaid, "From Cooperative to Coercive Federalism," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 509, American Federalism: The Third Century. (May, 1990), pp. 139-152.

Peterson, P. Who should do what? Divided responsibility in the federal system Brookings review, vol. 13, no.2, Spring, 1995, pp. 6-11

Week 12

November 9th: Work, Welfare, and Poverty

William Julius Wilson, *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor* (1996), Chapter 1

Lehmann, Nicholas, "The Myth of Community Development," *New York Times Magazine*, January 1994

Michael Porter, "The Competitive Advantage of the Inner City," *Harvard Business Review* (1995)

James Q. Wilson and George Kelling, "Broken Windows," *Atlantic Monthly* (Vol 239, Issue 3, 1982)

November 11th: NO Class (Veteran's Day Holiday)

Week 13

November 16th: 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

Swanstrom, Todd, "Semisovereign Cities: The Politics of Urban Development," *Polity*, Fall 1988

November 18th: Tourism as a Growth Strategy

Fogelson, 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

Kaiser, Edward and David Godschalk, "Twentieth Century Land Use Planning," in LeGates, Richard and Frederic Stout ed. *The City Reader*

Duany, Andres and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, "The Neighborhood, the District, and the Corridor," in LeGates, Richard and Frederic Stout ed. *The City Reader*

Wheeler, Stephen, "Planning Sustainable and Livable Cities," in LeGates, Richard and Frederic Stout ed. *The City Reader*

Whyte, William, "The Design of Spaces," in LeGates, Richard and Frederic Stout ed. *The City Reader*

Davis, Mike. 1990. *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future of LA*, New York: Verso. 223-263

November 25th: Wal-Martization: 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

Terry Moe, "Teachers Unions and School Board Elections." 2005. In William Howell, ed., *Beseiged: School Boards and the Future of Education Politics* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution).

Hennig, Jeff, "What we can and can't learn from other cities,"

<http://www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov/advocacy/schools/files/csghenig%20p.pdf>

Marion Orr, "The Challenge of School Reform in Baltimore," in Clarence N. Stone, ed., *Changing Urban Education* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1998), 93-117.

Mark Schneider *et al.*, *Choosing Schools: Consumer Choice and the Quality of American Schools* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 39-58, 261-274.

Week 16

December 7th: Culture Wars

Sharp, Elaine. 1996. "Culture Wars and City Politics: Local Government's Role in Social Conflict," *Urban Affairs Review*. 31 (6) :738-758

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*****