

SYLLABUS: Chicago Government and Politics/PSC 323
Spring Quarter, 2015

L. Bennett/990 bldg. #2203
lbennett@depaul.edu
x51973

In the latter half of the 19th century Chicago was the fastest growing major city in the world, and to most observers the quality of its growth was appalling. Immigrant workers were squeezed into unpleasant and unsanitary neighborhoods. The city's manufacturers poured vast quantities of pollution into the sky and local waterways. After the turn of the century the Chicago became a center of organized crime, and during Prohibition the city's speakeasies and gangland conflicts made it possibly the most interesting and dangerous city in the country.

Against this backdrop, Chicago's politics, by the end of the nineteenth century, took a form that emphasized personal and neighborhood loyalties and the pragmatic use of government as a means of rewarding friends and punishing enemies. From the early years of the Great Depression, the institution that most embodied this type of politics was the Cook County Democratic Party.

In many ways, the image of "broad-shouldered," "political machine"-dominated Chicago continues to shape popular understanding of the nation's third largest city. In this course we trace the rise and impacts of machine politics, but also examine how Chicago in the early 21st century has emerged as a vibrant, post-industrial, though still one-party city. Without forgetting the city's rich and controversial political heritage, our focus is just as much on the city's present and future.

We will use four texts:

D. Bradley Hunt, *Blueprint for Disaster: The Unraveling of Chicago Public Housing*

William Grimshaw, *Bitter Fruit: Black Politics and the Chicago Machine, 1931-1991*

Joel Rast, *Remaking Chicago: The Political Origins of Urban Industrial Change*

Mary Pattillo, *Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City*

Additional required readings are available at the course's D2L site.

Grades will be determined by a late-in-the-quarter (not final) exam (25%), an interpretive essay (25%), a "final task" (25%), and classroom participation (25%).

TOPICAL OUTLINE

week of March 31: Introductions

"Daley: The Last Boss"

Chicago Politics Fact Sheet

...get started on Hunt!!!

April 7: Dealing w/a Legend in Two Ways I

Chicago Politics Fact Sheet...discussion

Hunt, Intro, chpts 1-5

April 9: no class**wo/April 14:** Dealing w/a Legend in Two Ways II/Machine Politics, Chicago Style I

Hunt, chpts 6-10, Conclusion

Paul Kleppner, Population Diversity and Political Change, 1870-1970

Harold F. Gosnell, You Can't Lick A Ward Boss

April 18: Near North Side Field Trip**wo/April 21:** Machine Politics, Chicago-Style II/ Race and Chicago Politics I

Harold F. Gosnell, Changing Character of Precinct Captains

Martin Meyerson and Edward C. Banfield, Running the Machine Chicago Style

Sanford J. Ungar, Chicago A.D. (After Daley)

Patrick Reardon and William Gaines, All in the Family

Laurie Cohen, et al., Political Army Wields Clout, Jobs

Mick Dumke, The Making of an Alderman

Grimshaw, chpts 1-2

April 28: Mid-quarter Interpretive Essay Due**wo/April 28:** Race and Chicago Politics II

Grimshaw, chpts 3-9

wo/May 5: Making Contemporary Chicago I

Rast, chpts 1-4

May 7: Clybourn Ave. Field Trip**wo/May 12:** Making Contemporary Chicago II/ N-hood Politics in the RMD Era I

Rast, chpts 5-6, Conclusion

Pattillo, Intro, chpts 1-3

wo/May 19: N-hood Politics in the RMD Era II

Pattillo, chpts 4-7, Conclusion

May 26: Late-in-the-quarter Exam

May 28: Neighborhood Politics, Another Variant

Jan Doering, Race as a Tool: The Politics of Crime and Race in Multiracial Neighborhoods

wo/June 2: Where Do We Go From Here?

Larry Bennett, Contemporary Chicago Politics: Myth, Reality, and Neoliberalism

Olaf Merk, Metropolitan Governance of Transport and Land Use in Chicago

June 4: Last Day of Class

June 9: Final Task Due, 3 PM at LB's office

THE ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING

(1) The mid-quarter interpretive essay has its source in a paradox: during the first three weeks of this class you will have screened a video biography of Richard J. Daley that presents him as an unchallenged shaper of politics and policy in Chicago from the mid-1950s until the mid-1970s **and** you will have read a history of the Chicago Housing Authority that attributes very little of the decline of that notorious agency to local politics.

Your challenge is to unravel this paradox, which you will do by addressing the following set of topics: (a) limits on the influence of Richard J. Daley that were either structural in nature (policy areas that were beyond the scope of mayoral control) **or** limits on RJD's influence *that he accepted* due to the high political risks had he chosen to take direct action, (b) dynamics of public housing policy formation and execution that were intrinsic to that particular arena of public policy, (c) the peculiar history/attributes of the CHA as a bureaucratic institution, and (d) unanticipated consequences—public policy outcomes that were neither planned nor anticipated by relevant politicians, policymakers, or bureaucrats.

In five to seven pages (doubled-spaced, 10- or 12-point font, one-inch margins) you will write a concise explanation of a complicated political/policy issue. If you use outside sources, cite them **properly** (either footnoting or via a conventional “internal citation” format). **One last requirement: limited quotations from sources (no more than 15 lines total). You will write this paper in your own words.**

You will be able to write this paper using our readings, discussions, and the Daley film, but if you do want to consult some other sources, here are some starting points:

...on the life and times of RJD

Roger Biles, *Richard J. Daley: Politics, Race, and the Governing of Chicago*...even-handed, very interested in connecting RJD's politics and public policy impacts

Milton Rakove, *Don't Make No Waves...Don't Back No Losers*...provocatively analytical, more sympathetic than, for example, Mike Royko's *Boss*

Adam Cohen and Elizabeth Taylor, *American Pharoah*...compendious but not so “Chicago-sensitive” as the foregoing

Samuel Gove and Louis Masotti, eds., *After Daley*...an “up and down” set of essays published a few years following RJD’s death

Alan Ehrenhalt, *The Lost City*...not quite urban history, not quite sociology...but an interesting interpretation of Chicago in the 1950s

Gregory Squires, Larry Bennett, Kathleen McCourt, and Philip Nyden, *Chicago: Race, Class, and Urban Decline*...overviews economic, social, and political trends across the 1960s, '70s, and '80s

...on public housing in Chicago

Arnold R. Hirsch, *Making the Second Ghetto*...a forerunner of D. Bradley Hunt’s CHA study, focusing in particular on public housing, local redevelopment policy, and racial segregation

Sudhir Venkatesh, *American Project*...a sociological study of the collapse of the CHA’s Robert Taylor Homes development

Larry Bennett, Janet Smith, and Patricia Wright, eds., *Where Are Poor People to Live?*...essays examining the decline of the CHA and revitalization efforts since the 1990s

Lawrence Vale, *Purging the Poorest*...whose Chicago discussion focuses on the Cabrini-Green CHA development

Edward Goetz, *New Deal Ruins*...which includes discussion of public housing redevelopment in New Orleans, Atlanta, and Chicago

and of course: Hunt’s extensive footnotes

(2) The late-in-the-quarter-exam: You’ll deal with essay questions covering the preceding sessions of the quarter (more details as the date approaches).

(3) The rockin’ 25% for classroom participation: A/over the course of the quarter, regular and informed contribution to class discussion; B/occasional participation (not every class, for example)...less on-the-mark substantively-speaking; C/everything else...**but note:** solid written work will not be substantially compromised by limited participation; likewise, a “nonparticipation C” will not pull up D- or F-level written work.

(4) The final task: The focus of this assignment will be the material (readings, discussions...) covered in the last month of class. There will be more details on this assignment in the coming weeks.