

**SYLLABUS: PSC 223/Urban Politics/Winter Quarter, 2016****Larry Bennett****990 W. Fullerton/2203; 773-325-1973; [lbennett@depaul.edu](mailto:lbennett@depaul.edu)****Office Hours: M/W 1 PM to 2 PM, 4:30 to 5 PM; Fri 11 AM to Noon**

This is a course that concentrates on the politics of cities and suburbs in the United States. We will define politics broadly and include discussions of topics such as the effect of American urbanization processes on city politics, the evolution of urban politics, the distinctive character of urban politics in the Sunbelt, and the impacts of the economic crash of 2008 on cities and city government finances.

One can make a strong case that urban politics represents the most visible stage for observing the interaction of social inequality, ideology, and politics in this country. Local governments make decisions on taxation and the delivery of services that often result in contentious political debate. Far more directly than either the state or federal levels of government, urban governments deliver visible services such as public safety protection, sanitation, and education. In the last couple of years, the conduct of municipal police forces has been a major source of concern across the U.S. Thus, you might want to think of urban politics as the best vantage point for observing the substance of American politics.

**WE WILL READ THREE BOOKS:**

Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics* (9<sup>th</sup> edition, 8<sup>th</sup> edition is also fine) [J&S]

Steven P. Erie, *Rainbow's End*

Richard E. Foglesong, *Married to the Mouse*

...the three texts will be augmented with occasional short readings/those available at the course D2L site are noted

**FOR THOSE OF YOU CONCERNED ABOUT GRADES....:**

Your grade will be based on (1) a mid-term exam...essay questions in class—20%, (2) a final exam...essay questions in class—35%, (3) an analytical paper—35%, and (4) classroom participation—10%.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week of January 4: Introductions...plus (?)

Peter S. Goodman, "This Is the Sound of a Bubble Bursting" (D2L)

J&S, chpt. 1

Foglesong, preface & chpt. 1

...get started on Urban Theory Overview (D2L)

wo/ of Jan. 11: Theories of American Urban Politics

complete Urban Theory Overview (D2L)

J&S, chpt. 2

***No class: Jan. 18/Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration***

Jan. 20: American Urbanization, Municipal Institutional Development, Political Machines I

J&S, chpt. 3

Erie, chpts. 1-3

wo/Jan. 25: Political Machines II, Urban Reform

J&S, chpt. 4

Erie, chpt. 4

two articles by Lisa Bacon (*NYT*) on Mayor Douglas Wilder of Richmond Virginia (D2L)

***February 1: Mid-Term Exam***

Feb. 3: Municipal Finance...and Its Implications

J&S, chpt. 12

Brad Stone, "A City That Shopped Till It Dropped" (Emeryville, Ca.) (D2L)

***Feb. 3 (also!): book choices due***

wo/February 8: The Evolution of Urban Policy in America

J&S, chpts. 5, 7-8

Erie, chpt. 5

wo/Feb. 15: Race, Cities...and Suburbs, Metropolitan Governance

J&S, chpts. 6, 14, 10-11

wo/Feb. 22 : Metropolitan Governance II, Sunbelt Politics, Disney Comes to Orlando

J&S, chpt. 9

Foglesong, chpts. 2-5

wo/Feb. 29: Disney v. Orlando (?)/The Politics of Urban Revitalization/Mega-events and Urban Revitalization I

Foglesong, chpts. 6-9

J&S, chpt. 13

Bennett, Bennett, and Alexander, "Chicago and the 2016 Olympics" (D2L)

**March 7: Analytical Paper Due**

wo/March 7: Cities and the American Future

Richard Florida, "How the Crash Will Reshape America" (D2L)

Sabrina Tavernise, "City Council in Harrisburg Files Petition of Bankruptcy" (D2L)

Monica Davey and Mary Williams Walsh, "Billions in Debt, Detroit Tumbles into Insolvency" (D2L)

Harold Meyerson, "The Revolt of the Cities" (D2L)

**March 14: Final Exam/2:30 to 4:45 PM**

**THE ANALYTICAL PAPER**

The purposes of this assignment are two-fold: (1) to have you read a book in addition to the assigned readings, and in so doing, to broaden your knowledge of urban politics and how urban politics is analyzed, (2) to write a paper in which you closely investigate and report what the author is up to. In effect, you might consider this exercise a model for analyzing materials that you confront in other classes (or situations).

Here is the book list (each of you will select a book from this list), organized via a somewhat arbitrary set of categories.

**Classics**

Robert Caro, *The Power Broker* (Robert Moses—NYC...a very long book, but a good read!)

Robert Dahl, *Who Governs?* (New Haven, Conn.)

Richard DeLeon, *Left Coast City* (San Francisco)

Floyd Hunter, *Community Power Structure* (Atlanta)

Ira Katznelson, *City Trenches* (NYC)

John Logan and Harvey Molotch, *Urban Fortunes*

Paul Peterson, *City Limits*

Wallace Sayre and Herbert Kaufman, *Governing New York City*

Martin Shefter, *Political Crisis Fiscal Crisis: The Collapse and Revival of New York City*

Clarence Stone, *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta 1946-1988*

Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis* (Detroit)

Todd Swanstrom, *The Crisis of Growth Politics* (Cleveland)

### **Case Studies**

John Arena, *Driven from New Orleans: How Nonprofits Betray Public Housing and Promote Privatization*

Gregory Cowley, *The Politics of Place: Contentious Urban Development in Pittsburgh*

Steven P. Erie, Vladimir Kogan, and Scott A. McKenzie, *Paradise Plundered: Fiscal Crisis and Governance Failure in San Diego*

Richard Gendron and G. William Domhoff, *The Leftmost City: Power and Progressive Politics in Santa Cruz*

Howard Gillette, Jr., *Camden After the Fall: Decline and Renewal in a Post-Industrial City*

Kevin Fox Gotham, *Authentic New Orleans: Tourism, Culture, and Race in the Big Easy*

Chester Hartman, *City for Sale: The Transformation of San Francisco*

Mandi Isaacs Jackson, *Model City Blues: Urban Space and Organized Resistance in New Haven*

John Mollenkopf, *A Phoenix in the Ashes* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, preferably; NYC)

Kevin O'Keefe, *Baltimore Politics 1971-1986: The Schaefer Years and the Struggle for Succession*

Don Parsons, *Making a Better World: Public Housing, The Red Scare, and the Direction of Modern Los Angeles*

Douglas Rae, *City: Urbanism and Its End* (New Haven, Conn.)

Todd Shaw, *Now Is the Time!: Detroit Politics and Grassroots Action*

Raphael Sonenshein, *The City at Stake: Secession, Reform, and the Battle for Los Angeles*

Alex Stepick, Guillermo Grenier, Max Castro, and Marvin Dunn, *This Land Is Our Land* (Miami)

William Scott Swearingen, Jr. *Environmental City: People, Place, Politics, and the Meaning of Modern Austin* (Texas)

### **Neighborhood Profiles**

Andrew Deener, *Venice: A Contested Bohemia in Los Angeles*

Lance Freeman, *There Goes the 'Hood: Views of Gentrification from the Ground Up* (NYC)

Herbert Gans, *The Urban Villagers* (Boston)

Nicole P. Marwell, *Bargaining for Brooklyn: Community Organizations in the Entrepreneurial City*

Wendell Pritchett, *Brownsville, Brooklyn: Blacks, Jews, and the Changing Face of the Ghetto*

Jonathan Rieder, *Canarsie: The Jews and Italians of Brooklyn Against Liberalism*

Celina Su, *Streetwise for Book Smarts: Grassroots Organizing and Education Reform in the Bronx*

### **Personal Profiles**

Jack Beatty, *The Rascal King* (James Michael Curley—Boston)

Vincent J. Cannato, *The Ungovernable City: John Lindsay and His Struggle to Save New York*

Sanford Horwitt, *Let Them Call Me Rebel* (Saul Alinsky)

Wendell Pritchett, *Robert Weaver and the American City: The Life and Times of an Urban Reformer*

Joyce Purnick, *Mike Bloomberg: Money, Power, and Politics*

Wilbur C. Rich, *Coleman Young and Detroit Politics*

Michael Weber, *Don't Call Me a Boss: David L. Lawrence, Pittsburgh's Renaissance Mayor*

### **Race and Ethnicity**

Janet Abu-Lughod, *Race, Space, and Riots in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles*

Howell S. Baum, *Brown in Baltimore: School Desegregation and the Limits of Liberalism*

Peter F. Burns, *Electoral Politics Is Not Enough: Racial and Ethnic Minorities and Urban Politics* (Bridgeport, Hartford, Stamford, and Waterbury, Connecticut)

Stephanie Chambers, *Mayors and Schools: Minority Voices and Democratic Tensions in Urban Education*

Susan E. Clarke, et al., *Multiethnic Moments: The Politics of Urban Education Reform*

Charles E. Connerly, "The Most Segregated City in America": *City Planning and Civil Rights in Birmingham, 1920-1980*

Sidney Fine, *Violence in the Model City: The Cavanagh Administration, Race Relations, and the Detroit Riot of 1967*

Ronald Formisano, *Boston Against Busing*

Edward Goetz, *New Deal Ruins: Race, Economic Justice, and Public Housing Policy*

Pauline Lipman, *The New Political Economy of Urban Education: Neoliberalism, Race, and the Right to the City*

John T. McGreevy, *Parish Boundaries: The Catholic Encounter with Race in the Twentieth Century Urban North*

Chris McNickle, *To Be Mayor of New York: Ethnic Politics in the City*

Jerald Podair, *The Strike that Changed New York: Blacks, Whites, and the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Crisis*

Alejandro Portes and Alex Stepick, *City on the Edge* (Miami)

Wilbur C. Rich, *Black Mayors and School Politics* (Detroit, Gary, Newark, N.J.)

Wilbur C. Rich, *David Dinkins and New York City Politics: Race, Images, and the Media*

Raphael Sonenshein, *Politics in Black and White* (Los Angeles)

Emily E. Straus, *Death of a Suburban Dream: Race and Schools in Compton, California*

Thomas Sugrue, *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North*

June Manning Thomas, *Redevelopment and Race: Planning a Finer City in Postwar Detroit*

J. Phillip Thompson, *Double Trouble: Black Mayors, Black Communities, and the Call for Deep Democracy*

## "Comparative" Books

Alan DiGaetano and John Klemanski, *Power and Governance* (Boston, Detroit, Birmingham (UK), and Bristol (UK)

Barbara Ferman, *Challenging the Growth Machine* (Chicago and Pittsburgh)

Jeffrey Henig, Richard Hula, Marion Orr, and Desiree Pedescaleaux, *The Color of School Reform* (Atlanta, Baltimore, Detroit, Washington, D.C.)

Richard Keiser, *Subordination or Empowerment?* (Atlanta, Chicago, Gary, Ind., Philadelphia)

Steven McGovern, *The Politics of Downtown Development* (San Francisco and Washington, D.C.)

John Mollenkopf, *The Contested City* (Boston and San Francisco)

**Paper Guidelines: These papers will run 5-7 pages, 12-font maximum, double-spaced, one-inch margins, hard copies only.** You will discuss the book via asking the following set of questions:

- (1) What is the book's context—does it attempt to advance or counter a particular line of theoretical argument ("In this book I will prove that the pluralists have it all wrong about who runs Atlanta")? Was the book produced to document a particular issue in urban politics, or the effects of a particular governmental program? Or, in the more general sense, why does the author claim that the book being produced is important to read?
- (2) How does the author go about making his or her case? Is this a book dependent on interviewing (of important people, or neighborhood rank and file residents)...or examination of public documents...or analysis of statistical information (such as Census data)? In studies of particular cities, there may be case studies of different particular incidents...are these in fact compared? Some of the books explicitly compare politics in different cities. Well—how is this comparing done?
- (3) What are the main arguments presented in this book? How do the arguments presented "fit" within the broader study of urban politics, that is, does the author seem to be making a widely accepted argument, or is this a book that says: "People have previously thought this...but I'm telling you it's another way entirely."
- (4) How successful is the book? Some of these books (Dahl, Hunter, Sayre and Kaufman) are a few decades old at this point...is what they have to say consistent with what we think we know about urban politics now? In general, does the information provided by the book seem to clearly support the arguments offered? Ultimately, having read the book, does it make you look at urban politics and cities in a different way?

The above suggests how you can organize your material. Now, some other things to keep in mind: This is not a research paper, but if you devote some time to reading about the author's work, or to look at reviews of the book,

that's fine. If you decide to incorporate some of this reading into your analysis, you should "cite" these sources. But, under no circumstances should you substantially quote the opinions of others about this book. Your in-text quotation ceiling is three lines per page averaged over the length of your paper (15 lines of quotation allowed for a five-page paper, 18 for a six-page paper, etc.) This analytical paper is your work, and it should be your writing. Yes, reasonably polished first drafts will be read/commented on by the instructor...but they must come in no later than two weeks before the paper deadline.

**1-4-16**