

Urban Politics

POLITICAL SCIENCE 401A University of Nevada, Las Vegas Fall 2005

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Class Meets: F 8:30 p.m. – 11:20 p.m., CBC C235.

Course Description:

In this class we will discuss the structure and workings of urban and local society and politics. In an age where public attention tends to be focused on national and international levels of politics, our task is to highlight the importance of local and urban institutions and processes on our life and relations. A variety of issues that are a consequence of local political processes are examined, including the representation of citizen and group preferences, the conflict between the public interest and private rights, and the distribution of public and private resources. Topics that will be covered will include local economic development & growth control, local services and finances, intergovernmental relationships, ethnic & cultural conflict, poverty, crime, violence, and quality of life issues. In addition we will explore how we as citizens perceive urban life and politics as well as how the media (the news, film, television) and academic thinkers depict how urban life is and how it should be.

Required Readings:

1. Dennis Judd and Paul Kantor, eds. 2005. *American Urban Politics: A Reader*, 4th edition. New York: Longman.
2. Bernard H. Ross and Myron A. Levine. 2005. *Urban Politics: Power in Metropolitan America*, 7th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth
3. In addition, five articles are available on e-reserves: <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx>

Disability Policy: The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137. Their numbers are: (702-895-0866/Voice; 702-895-0652/TDD. For additional information please visit <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/drc>.

Course requirements: Attendance and participation is especially important in a class that meets only once a week. Make up exams are reserved for emergency situations and official university functions. Late assignments will not be accepted except in emergency situations. IN ALL CASES, the reason must be documented (police report for an accident, doctor's letter for a serious illness on official letterhead), letter from the athletic director, etc. Pop quizzes cannot be made up (no exception), which is why I allow 3 quizzes to be dropped from your total quiz grade. In regard to the observance of a religious holiday, University policy states that students must notify the instructor about anticipated absences by the last day of late registration to be assured the opportunity to make up missed work.

Evaluations:

There will be a midterm, final, a pro/con essay, 6 pop quizzes and three film reviews.

Midterm: 25% of grade (October 14)

Final Exam 25% of grade (December 16)

Attendance/Participation: 15% of your grade will reflect your attendance and participation in class

Pop Quizzes: 15% - six pop quizzes on the readings – you can drop your 3 lowest scores.

Film Analyses: 10% - Analysis of 3 of the movies that we see in class (due December 16)

Pro/Con essay: 10% - A 5 page essay on a local/urban political debate (to be discussed later in class - due December 2)

SCHEDULE: Reading assignments are to be completed by the assigned date. See Reading List below for a full description of reading assignment

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Author's name)
WEEK 1	Introduction	
September 2	All Politics is Local: The Urban Community	
	<i>Metropolis</i>	
WEEK 2	The Search for Utopia	
September 9	Images of the City: Theory & Urban Politics	Mumford; Warner; Bickford; Davis
	City-State; City; Community; and Citizen	
WEEK3	Urban Politics and Research	
September 16	Urban Politics Research/Research Paper	Judd & Kantor; White; Ross & Levine ch. 1
	Political Science and the City	Danielson & Lewis; Peterson
WEEK4	Urban Political Development	
September 23	The Evolution of Cities and Suburbs	Wade; Ross & Levine ch. 2
	The Political Machine: <i>Miller's Crossing</i>	Riordan; Ross & Levine ch. 6
WEEK5	Urban Political Development Cont.	
September 30	The Modern/Dying Political Machine: <i>City of Hope</i>	Erie
	The Reform Movement and Beyond	Ross & Levine ch. 7; Hays
WEEK6	Structure of Urban Politics	
October 7	Who Governs?: Legislature, Executive, Bureaucracy, Business and Citizens	Ross & Levine ch. 4, 5 Stone; Martin
WEEK7	Structure of Urban Politics Cont.	
October 14	MIDTERM	
	Intergovernmental Relations	Ross & Levine ch. 14; Nivola
WEEK8	Race, Culture & Conflict	
October 21	Culture Wars: <i>Do the Right Thing</i>	Sharp; Rogers; Baxandall & Ewen
	Gender, Class and Race	Sugrue; Ross & Levine ch. 10

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Author's name)
WEEK9		
October 28	NEVADA DAY: NO CLASS	
WEEK10	Economic Development	
November 4	The Tourist City	Foglesong; Parker; Siegfried & Zimbalist; Newman
	Downtown	Fogelson
	Business Influence	Kantor & Savitch
WEEK 11		
November 11	Veterans' Day: No Class	
WEEK 12		
November 18	Current Issues in Urban Politics	
	Suburbia v. the City	Ross & Levine ch. 11
	<i>American Beauty v. Bladerunner</i>	Danielson; Hayden; Maher
WEEK 13		
November 25	Thanksgiving Recess: No Class	
WEEK 14	Current Issues in Urban Politics	
December 2	Local Autonomy vs. Regional Government	Seigal; Orfield; Hayden (2)
	PRO/CON ESSAY DUE	Ross & Levine ch. 12 & 13
WEEK 15	Local Service Delivery & Financing	
December 9	Revenue and Expenditures of Cities	Eisenger; Ross & Levine ch. 9 & 15
Final Exam December 16 8:30 – 11:20	Final exam and Film Reviews Due	

Reading List

Baxandall and Ewen - *Suburban Change and the "Underwater Economy"* by Rosalyn Baxandall and Elizabeth Ewen in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #16**

Bickford – “Constructing Inequality: City Spaces and the Architecture of Citizenship” by Susan Bickford. *Political Theory*, 28, 2000: 355-76. <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx>

Danielson – *Suburban Autonomy* by Michael N. Danielson in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #12**

Danielson & Luis – “City Bound: Political Science and the American Metropolis.” *Political Science Quarterly* 49 [March 1996]: 203-20. <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx>

Davis - *Fortress Los Angeles: The Militarization of Urban Space* by Mike Davis in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #20**

- Erie - *Big-City Rainbow Politics: Machines Revivodus?* By Steven P. Erie in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #7**
- Eisenger – *City Politics in an Era of Federal Devolution* by Peter Eisinger in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #23**
- Fogelson - *Downtown in Mid Twentieth Century* by Robert M. Fogelson in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #10**
- Foglesong - *When Disney Comes to Town* by Richard Foglesong in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #17**
- Hayden - *Planning Suburban Development* by Dolores Hayden in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #13**
- Hayden (2) - *The New Urbanism* by Dolores Hayden in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #28**
- Hays - *The Politics of Reform* by Samuel P. Hays in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #9**
- Judd & Kantor - *Evolution of Urban Politics in America* by Dennis Judd & Paul Kantor in **American Urban Politics: The Reader – Introductory Essay p.1-12**
- Kantor & Savitch, *Can Politicians Bargain with Business* by Paul Kantor and H.V. Savitch in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #19**
- Maher - *The Landscape of Suburban Fear* by Kristen Hill Maher in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #21**
- Martin - *Local Progressivism* by Isaac Martin in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #25**
- Mumford - "Utopia: The City and the Machine" by Lewis Mumford (Daedalus, 94 [1965]: 271-292).
<http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx>
- Newman - *Race and the Tourist Bubble* by Harvey K. Newman in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #15**
- Nivola - *Federal Prescriptions and City Problems* by Pietro S. Nivola in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #24**
- Orfield – *Conflict or Consensus: Forty Years of Minnesota Metropolitan Politics* by Myron Orfield in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #26**
- Parker - "Las Vegas: Casino Gambling and Local Culture" by Robert E. Parker from the *Tourist City*, edited by Dennis Judd and Susan Fainstein. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1999.
<http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx>

Peterson - *The Interests of the Limited City* by Paul E. Peterson in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #1**

Riordan - *To Hold Your District: Study Human Nature* by William Riordan in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #6**

Rogers - *Minority Groups and Coalitional Politics* by Reuel Rogers in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #14**

Ross & Levine - *Urban Politics: Power in Metropolitan America* by Bernard H. Ross and Myron A. Levine [**Book**]

Siegal – *Is Regional Government the Answer* by Fred Siegal in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #27**

Siegfried & Zimbalist – "The Economics of Sports Facilities and their Communities." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 14,no. 3, 2000: 95-114. <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx>

Sugrue - *Racial Confrontation in Post-War Detroit* by Thomas Sugrue in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #11**

Sharp - *Cultures Wars & City Politics* by Elaine Sharp in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #3**

Stone - *Urban Regimes: A Research Perspective* by Clarence N. Stone in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #2**

Wade - *Urban Frontier* by Richard C. Wade in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #5**

Warner – *The Environment of Private Opportunity* by Sam Bass Warner, Jr. in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #4**

White – *City Affairs are Not Political* by Andrew White in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #8**