

PS 4132: Race, Immigration, and Urban Politics

Course Description

The global world is increasingly an urban world: about half of humanity lives in cities and this trend is expected to continue apace. In the United States, over 80 percent of people live in metropolitan regions. Urban areas present enormously complex opportunities and challenges, from the perceived failure of urban public schools, to seemingly intractable racial inequalities, to the integration of a new wave of immigrants, to affordable housing, to efficient public transportation. On the other hand, cities have long been heralded as places of opportunity, spaces of economic development, entrepreneurship, and multiculturalism. Under what conditions are urban spaces socially just, diverse, and prosperous? Under what conditions do they become spaces contested by different interest groups? Cities are the canvas upon which many of the most pressing social issues of our day are being constructed.

This course will give students an interdisciplinary understanding and analysis of these urban social problems, by bridging the literatures on urban politics with that on urban geography. The complexity of urban issues calls for diverse perspectives in order to imagine creative responses. Approaching the urban experience from qualitative and quantitative perspectives will help students address structural as well as individual solutions to the problems urban residents face. You will become an expert on a city of your choice (from the list—in class sign ups).

Requirements

Grades are based on **Three** 4-page policy memos, class participation, an in-class presentation on a local organization that seeks to solve an urban issue, and a final group presentation (during the last week of class).

In lieu of a final exam, in groups you will present about an issue facing cities and offer a solution to the problem. More details about this will be provided as the end of the term approaches. Alternative times for the final presentation will not be accepted, barring serious family or medical emergencies.

- Each Policy Memo is worth 15% of your grade. I will provide more information about context, style, and guidelines for these, as well as due dates.
- The group presentation is worth 15% of your grade.
- You will be asked to present on a local organization in your city that seeks to address an urban issue.
- Participation is worth 25% of your grade. **Attendance is Mandatory.** You may miss 2 classes without penalty. You will be asked to attend a Columbia City Council meeting and write a 1-page summary. This is part of your participation grade. I will post this assignment during the first week of class.

Please be prepared to discuss topics in class! I expect that you have done the reading before class and view class time as a chance to build on your understanding of the readings (through mini lectures, discussions, in-class assignments, pop quizzes and questions). In class assignments and pop quizzes count towards your participation grade.

Grading	Point Value	Date Due
City Fact Sheet	10 points	January 31 st
Policy Memo #1:	30 points	February 23 rd
Policy Memo #2:	30 Points	March 23 rd
Policy Memo #3:	30 Points	April 25 th
Organization Presentation:	20 Points	Semester long
Group Presentation:	30 Points	April 30 th and May 2 nd (In Class)
Participation:	50 Points	Semester long

Grades will be assigned as follows –

Below 60	= F
60 and less than 62	= D-
62 and less than 68	= D
68 and less than 70	= D+
70 and less than 72	= C-
72 and less than 78	= C
78 and less than 80	= C+
80 and less than 82	= B-
82 and less than 88	= B
88 and less than 90	= B+
90 and less than 92	= A-
92 and less than 98	= A
Greater than 98	= A+

Please note that there will be **no** “rounding up” of grades. There are no exceptions to this policy, so don’t try to get me to round up when you get your grade. Rounding quickly becomes an arbitrary and unfair process. There will also be no extra credit opportunities, expect those offered in class to everyone.

Academic Honesty

Please refrain from cheating or plagiarizing. If you have questions or concerns, please come see me in Office Hours.

Etiquette

Please silence your cell phones! I do not want to see or hear them (even on vibrate).

The topics in this class can be emotionally charged. Questions are encouraged and the goal is learning in a safe, respectful environment. **I have a no computer policy.** They are distracting and the research suggests that you do not learn better when you use them.

Diversity Intensive Statement: This class considers the way racial and ethnic groups interact in the local political arena. Given the focus on cities and municipalities, there will be a emphasis on social inequality in terms of poverty, affordable housing, job creation, development, voting behavior and gentrification. This course will also consider local representation on councils and boards in terms of gender, class, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates (excluding the officially scheduled final examination), when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.

Required Texts (All available at the Bookstore)

1. *American Urban Politics in a Global Age*, 7th edition by, Paul Kantor and Dennis R. Judd (2013)
2. *Governing American Cities: Interethnic Coalitions, Competition, and Conflict*. Russell Sage Press. Jones-Correa, Michael (Eds). 2005
3. *Racial Coalition Building in Local Elections: Elite Cues and Cross-Ethnic Voting*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

All other readings are available on our course Canvas website.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week One (January 17, 19)

Course Overview and Introduction to Urban Politics

Kantor and Judd, 7th ed: Introductory chapter

Diamond, Jared. 1994. "Race Without Color." *Discover* 15: 82-89.

Peterson, Paul. 1981. *City Limit*. Chicago University Press. Chapters 1 and 2 (1-38)

Mumford, Lewis. *What is a City* (Short)

Week Two (January 22, 24, 26)

Power Structures

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

Peterson, Paul. 1981. *City Limit*. Chicago University Press. Chapter 3 (41-65)

Dahl, Robert. 1961. *Who Governs*. Yale University Press. (1-62)

Week Three (January 29, 31, February 2)

Urban Elections, Classic and updated theories of how cities are governed

Kantor and Judd, 7th ed Chapter 1 (Selections 1 and 2)

Hajnal, Zoltan and Jessica Trounstein. 2005. "Why Turnout Does Matter," *Journal of Politics*.

"Benjamin, Andrea and Alexis Miller. Forthcoming, *Urban Affairs Review*. Picking Winners:

How Political Organizations Influence Local Elections."

<https://urbanaffairsreview.com/2017/12/04/picking-winners-how-political-organizations-influence-local-elections/>

Week Four (February 5, 7, 9)

Housing and Gentrification

Hwang and Sampson. 2014. "Divergent Pathways of Gentrification." *American Sociological Review*.

Neighborhood Ethnoracial Composition and Gentrification in Chicago and New York, 1980 to 2010

Jeffrey M. Timberlake, Elaina Johns-Wolfe

<https://urbanaffairsreview.com/2016/04/25/gentrification-is-not-necessarily-turning-black-neighborhoods-white/>

Affordable Housing News Stories (will send out links)

Week Five (February 12, 14, 16)

Race, Place, and Politics

Kantor and Judd, 7th ed Chapter 4 (Selections 11, 12, and 13)

Benjamin, Andrea. 2017. *Racial Coalition Building in Local Elections: Elite Cues and Cross-Ethnic Voting*.

Week Six (February 19, 21, 23)

Machine Politics and Reform

Trounstine, Jessica. 2008. Political monopolies and American Cities. *The Rise and Fall of Bosses and Reformers*. Chapter 1, 2, 5 and 7 (21-61, 139-172, and 217-236).

Week Seven (February 26, 28, March 2)

Immigration and its impact on urban development Part 1

Governing American Cities

Chapter 1: Immigrant Political Participation in New York and Los Angeles

Chapter 2: Ethnic Subcontracting as an Impediment to Interethnic Coalitions: The Chinese Experience

Chapter 3: Korean Americans and the Crisis of the Liberal Coalition. *Immigrants and the Politics of Los Angeles*

Week Eight (March 5, 7, 9)

Immigration and its impact on urban development Part 2

Governing American Cities

Chapters 4: Racial Minority Groups Relations in a Multiracial Society

Chapter 5: Blacks and Cubans in Miami: The Negative Consequences of the Cuban Enclave on Ethnic Relations

Chapter 6: Protest or Violence: Political Patterns of Black-Korean Conflict

Week Nine (March 12, 14, 16)

Immigration and its impact on urban development Part 3

Governing American Cities

Chapter 7: Structural Shifts and Institutional Capacity: Possibilities for Ethnic Cooperation and Conflict in Urban Settings

Chapter 8: When Ideologies Agree and Interests Collide, What's a Leader to Do? The Prospects for Latino-Jewish Coalition in Los Angeles

Chapter 9: Interethnic Politics in the Consensus City

Week Ten (March 19, 21, 23)

The new urban/suburban reality: Governing the diverse metropolis

Kantor and Judd, 7th ed Chapter 5 (Selections 16, 17, and 18)

David Harvey. 2003 "The Right to the City." IJURR.

Spring Break (March 26, 28, 30)

Week Eleven (April 2, 4, 6)

Urban planning and transportation

Kantor and Judd, 7th ed, Chapter 7

Week Twelve (April 9, 11, 13)

The political economy of community development

Leigh Graham. 2015. "Legitimizing and Resisting Neoliberalism in U.S. Community Development" in the Routledge Handbook of Poverty in the U.S.

Andrea Smith. Introduction. The Revolution Will Not be Funded: Beyond the Non-profit Industrial Complex. 2007. Edited by Incite! Women of Color Against Violence

Week Thirteen (April 16, 18, 20)

Police and Community Relations

"Broken Windows: The police and neighborhood safety" James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling. 1982. The Atlantic Monthly:

"Police Relations with Black and White Youths in Different Urban Neighborhoods"—Bunson and Weitzer

"Racial Disparity in Police Contacts"—Crutchfield et al

Katherine Beckett and Steve Herbert. 2015. "Managing the Neoliberal City: 'Quality of Life' Policing in the Twenty-First Century" in the Routledge Handbook of Poverty in the U.S.

Week Fourteen (April 23, 25, 27)

Education

“Exclusivity, Exclusion, and Social Class in Urban Education Markets in the United Kingdom.”—Reay

Pauline Lipman, 2011, *The New Political Economy of Urban Education: Neoliberalism, Race, and the Right to the City*. Chapters 3 & 6

Week Fifteen (April 30 May 2)

Group Presentations