Graduate Colloquium: Urban Politics

Spring 2012
Monday, 2:10-4:00pm
Philosophy H 201D

Professor Justin Phillips
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733 International Affairs Building
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4 pm & by appointment

Course Description

This seminar is designed as an overview of the major debates in Urban Politics. The primary goals of the course are to familiarize students with the principal questions asked by scholars in this subfield, the methodological approaches employed, and the avenues available for future research. Methodological diversity will be emphasized.

Course Requirements

Reading & Discussion
This course is conducted in a discussion format so it is essential that students complete all of the required readings prior to class. Our seminar discussions will sacrifice scope for the rigorous examination of each of the week’s readings. All students must be prepared to participate. Participation grades will be determined by the quality of informed commentary contributed during our discussions.

For each book or article, students should focus on the following:
1) What is the research question?
2) What is the author’s argument?
3) What evidence does the author use to answer his/her question?
4) What conclusions are reached?
5) Is this article/book convincing? Why or why not?
6) How might the author’s research be improved?
7) How (if at all) does this article/book contribute to our existing understanding of urban politics?

Assignments
Students are required to complete five short (4-5 pages) review papers reacting to the week’s readings. Students are free to write papers for the weeks of their choosing. However, these papers must be turned in (via e-mail) no later than 5 p.m. on the Sunday prior to class. No late papers are accepted. These papers must address all of the week’s readings. Furthermore, students should avoid summarization and instead present critical analysis.
Grades for the seminar will be based upon performance in two areas:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Papers</td>
<td>70%</td>
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**TOPICS & READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**January 30th: Pluralism & Regime Theory**


**February 6th: The City as a Growth Machine**


**February 13th: Bureaucratic Power**


**February 20th: The Market & Globalization**

2. Paul Peterson (1981). *City Limits*
February 27th: Machine & Reform Politics
(2) Amy Bridges (1997). Morning Glories: Municipal Reform in the Southwest

March 5th: Racial Coalitions & Conflict
(1) Rufus Browning, Dale Marshall, and David Tabb. (1986). Protest is Not Enough: The Struggle of Blacks and Hispanics For Equality in Urban Politics

March 12th: No class (Spring Break)

March 19th: Immigration & Political Incorporation

March 26th: Voting in Cities & Their Suburbs
(2) Zoltan Hajnal. (2009). America’s Uneven Democracy: Race, Turnout, and Representation in City Politics

April 2nd: Urban Political Participation & Civic Engagement

April 9th: Fiscal Policy in Cities

April 16th: The Fragmented Metropolis
(1) Nancy Burns (1994). *Formation of American Local Governments: Private Values in Public Institutions*
(2) Gary Miller (1981). *Cities by Contract: The Politics of Municipal Incorporation*

April 23rd: Urban Decline & Renewal

April 30th: The Future of Urban Politics Research