

# Graduate Colloquium: Urban Politics

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

Professor Justin Phillips  
(212) 854-0741  
[jhp2121@columbia.edu](mailto:jhp2121@columbia.edu)  
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 (4-5pages) 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:

Class Participation	30%
Review Papers	70%

## **TOPICS & READING ASSIGNMENTS**

### **January 30<sup>th</sup>: Pluralism & Regime Theory**

- (1) Robert Dahl (1961). *Who Governs?*
- (2) Bachrach, Peter and Morton Baratz. 1962. "Two Faces of Power," *American Political Science Review* 56(4): 947-52.
- (3) Clarence Stone (1989). *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta*
- (4) Burns, Peter and Matthew O. Thomas. 2006. "The Failure of the Non-Regime: How Katrina Exposed New Orleans as a Regimeless City," *Urban Affairs Review* 41: 517-27.

### **February 6<sup>th</sup>: The City as a Growth Machine**

- (1) John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch (1987). *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*
- (2) Richard DeLeon (1992). *Left Coast City: Progressive Politics in San Francisco, 1976-1991*
- (3) Gerber and Phillips, 2003. "Development Ballot Measures, Interest Group Endorsements and the Political Geography of Growth Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 47:625-39.

### **February 13<sup>th</sup>: Bureaucratic Power**

- (1) Robert Caro (1974). *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York* (Parts I - IV)
- (2) Erie, Steve. 1992. "How the Urban West Was Won: The Local State and Economic Growth in Los Angeles, 1880 –1932." *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 27(4): 519-54.
- (3) Lewis, Paul G. and S. Karthick Ramakrishnan. 2007. "Police Practice in Immigrant-Destination Cities: Political Control or Bureaucratic Professionalism?" *Urban Affairs Review* 42: 874-900.

### **February 20<sup>th</sup>: The Market & Globalization**

- (1) Tiebout, Charles M. 1956. "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures." *Journal of Political Economy* 64(5): 416-24.
- (3) Paul Peterson (1981). *City Limits*
- (4) Jefferey M. Sellers (2002). *Governing from Below: Urban Regions and the Global Economy*

**February 27<sup>th</sup>: Machine & Reform Politics**

- (1) Steve Erie (1988). *Rainbow's End: Irish Americans and the Dilemmas of Urban Machine Politics, 1840-1985*
- (2) Amy Bridges (1997). *Morning Glories: Municipal Reform in the Southwest*
- (3) Krebs, Timothy B. 2005. "Money and Machine Politics: An Analysis of Corporate and Labor Contributions in Chicago City Council Elections," *Urban Affairs Review* 41:47-60.

**March 5<sup>th</sup>: 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*
- (2) Richard A. Keiser (1997). *Subordination or Empowerment? African American Leadership and the Struggle for Urban Political Power*
- (3) Hajnal, Zoltan. 2001. "White Residents, Black Incumbents, and a Declining Racial Divide." *American Political Science Review* 95(3): 603-17.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>: No class (Spring Break)****March 19<sup>th</sup>: Immigration & Political Incorporation**

- (1) Michael Jones-Correa (1998). *Between Two Nations: The Political Predicament of Latinos in New York City*
- (2) Reul Rogers. (2006). *Afro Caribbean Immigrants and the Politics of Incorporation: Ethnicity, Exception, or Exit.*
- (3) Jones-Correa, Michael and Lorrie Frasure. 2010. "The Logic of Institutional Dependency: The Case of Day Laborer Policy in Suburbia." *Urban Affairs Review* 45(4): 451-482

**March 26<sup>th</sup>: Voting in Cities & Their Suburbs**

- (1) Karen Kaufman (2004). *The Urban Voter: Group Conflict and Mayoral Voting Behavior in American Cities*
- (2) Zoltan Hajnal. (2009). *America's Uneven Democracy: Race, Turnout, and Representation in City Politics*
- (3) Oliver, J. Eric and Shang E. Ha. 2007. "Vote Choice in Suburban Elections," *The American Political Science Review* 101(3): 393-408.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Urban Political Participation & Civic Engagement**

- (1) J. Eric Oliver. (2010). *The Paradoxes of Integration: Race, Neighborhood, and Civic Life in Multiethnic America.*
- (2) Nicole P. Marwell (2007). *Bargaining for Brooklyn: Community Organizations in the Entrepreneurial City.*
- (3) Trounstein, Jessica. 2006. "Dominant Regimes and the Demise of Urban Democracy," *Journal of Politics* 68(4): 879-93.

**April 9<sup>th</sup>: Fiscal Policy in Cities**

- (1) Esther Fuchs (1992). *Mayors and Money: Fiscal Policy in New York and Chicago*
- (2) Gerber, Elisabeth and Daniel J. Hopkins. 2011. "When Mayors Matter: Estimating the Impact of Mayoral Partisanship on City Policy," *American Journal of Political Science*. 55(2): 326-39.
- (3) Baqir, Reza. 2002. "Districting and Government Overspending" *Journal of Political Economy* 110(6): 1318-54
- (4) Craw, Michael. 2008. "Taming the Local Leviathan: Institutional and Economic Constraints on Municipal Budgets." *Urban Affairs Review* 43(5): 663-90.

#### **April 16<sup>th</sup>: 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*
- (3) Mullin, Megan. 2008. "The Conditional Effect of Specialized Governance on Public Policy," *American Journal of Political Science* 52(1):125-141.

#### **April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Urban Decline & Renewal**

- (1) Thomas J. Sugrue. (1998). *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*.
- (2) Derek S. Hyra. (2008). *The New Urban Renewal: The Economic Transformation of Harlem and Bronzeville*
- (3) Glasgow, Garrett, Paul G. Lewis, and Max Neiman. 2012. "Local Development Policies and the Foreclosure Crisis in California: Can Local Policies Hold Back National Decline?" *Urban Affairs Review* 48(1): 64-85.

#### **April 30<sup>th</sup>: The Future of Urban Politics Research**

- (1) Judd, Dennis R. 2005. "Everything is Going to Hell: Urban Scholars as End-Times Prophets," *Urban Affairs Review* 41: 119-31.
- (2) Sapotichne, Joshua, Brian D. Jones, and Michelle Wolfe. 2007. "Is Urban Politics A Black Hole? Analyzing the Boundary Between Political Science and Urban Politics," *Urban Affairs Review* 43: 76-106.
- (3) Sellers, Jeffery M. 2005. "Re-Placing the Nation: An Agenda for Comparative Urban Politics," *Urban Affairs Review* 40: 419-45.
- (4) Rast, Joel. 2007. "Why History (Still) Matters: Reconnecting the Discipline Through Historical Institutionalism." Presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.