

Political Science 551
Fall Semester 2001
Office Hours: Thur. 2:30 p.m.
or by appointment

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Introduction to Urban Politics

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the classics in the political science literature on urban politics. It will be taught in seminar style and it is expected that all of the assigned material will be read before class so that the time in class can be spent exploring the implications of the readings and debating them, not summarizing them.

The grades for the course will be determined by a Mid-term exam, and an annotated bibliography on "An Insider's View of a Particular City", and a research paper summarizing the urban politics literature and your conclusion about a particular topic in urban studies. Each will be worth 1/3 of your final course grade.

TEXTS AND TOPICS

WEEK

Week I - Aug. 23

Introduction

1. Different approaches to the study of urban politics
 - a. Structural: State and Local Politics
 - b. Civics and reform
 - c. Power studies
 - d. Demography: Race and ethnicity
 - e. Public policy (health, education, crime, poverty, etc.) and the distribution of services
 - f. Economic development
 - g. Budgetary studies (city finance, etc.)
 - h. Global Cities
2. Different methodologies
 - a. Institutional
 - b. Behavioral
 - c. Participant observation
 - d. Legislative studies
 - e. Historical studies
 - f. Study of offices like Mayor
 - g. Decision-making studies
3. Introduction to the reading list for the Preliminary Exams for urban politics and policy

Week II - Aug. 30

This class will be changed to either Tuesday (Aug. 28) or Wednesday (Aug. 29) because I will be at the APSA conference from Thur. - Sunday.

Dick Simpson, ed, Chicago' Future in a Time of Change -
Parts I & II, pp. 3-69, 77-98.

Dick Simpson, ed., Inside Urban Politics (Manuscript) -
Part I.

1. Principal Social Conditions of Chicago
2. Principal Economic Conditions of Chicago
3. The effect of these conditions upon politics and government. (Do they determine the politics? Do they only influence the politics? Are they determined by the politics? etc.)
4. How might social and economic conditions differ in other U.S. cities?

Assignment: Find one new article, book or book chapter on the social and economic conditions of an U.S. city and report on those findings in class.

Weeks III & IV - September 6 & 13

Clarence Stone, Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta 1946-88

1. How is a "regime" defined and what is its operating definition?
2. Who were the "regimes" in the different eras of Atlanta's history?
3. What evidence is there for these conclusions?
4. How do Stone's conclusion support, confirm, change or negate Floyd Hunter's original study of Atlanta, Community Power?
5. Make a chart of power studies in other cities and the "regimes" they document. (This requires a library literature search. Especially be certain that you can cite the Chicago studies)

Week V - September 20

Simpson, Chicago's Future, Parts III & IV, pp. 135-154, 201-216, 227- 241, 254-286, 290-298, 353-369, 388-398.

Simpson, Roques, Rebels, and Rubber Stamps, (entire book)

1. How is machine politics defined (read relevant sections from Boss, Don't Make No Waves..., and Plunkitt of Tammany Hall)?
2. How is a "rubber stamp", "council wars", and "fragmented" city council defined?
3. Video: "The Chicago City Council: Ready for Reform" (will

- be shown in class on Sept. 20).
4. By the standards of representative democratic theory and ideals of good government and public administration how does the city government, county government and 520 governments in Cook County rank based on the UIC studies since 1979?

Week VI - September 27

Wilson, The Truly Disadvantaged (all)

1. Is there a ghetto underclass?
2. Did the War on Poverty work? What were its assumptions about race and poverty?
3. How do the new and the old ghettos differ?
4. What should be done about the racial ghettos and poverty today? Is tearing down the CHA public housing in Chicago today a good idea?

Week VII - Oct. 4

Judd and Swanstrom, City Politics, Chapters 1-9

1. Privatism and democracy in American cities in the 19th and 20th centuries.
2. Machine politics
3. Reform politics
4. The divided metropolis
5. National urban policy

Week VIII - Oct. 11

Judd and Swanstrom, City Politics, Chapters 10-15

1. The suburbs
2. Governing the metropolis
3. The growth imperative
4. The challenge of urban governance

Midterm Exam

Week IX - Oct. 18

Week X - Oct. 25

A detailed assignment for bibliography for the course will be handed out.

Orfield, Metropolitica (all)

1. Concentrated poverty and the challenge of regionalism.
2. The spatial mismatch of schools, housing, and jobs.

3. Metropolitan solutions to urban problems.
4. The role of government and the flaws of Chicago and Cook County governments.
5. Why metropolitan government isn't adopted?

Week XI - Nov. 1

Simpson, Chicago's Future, Part V, pp. 401-409, 414-439, 449-459, and 466-474. Peterson, City Limits (all).

1. What are the limits of city government?
2. How are cities financed?
3. How has funding changed from the 1960s to the 1990s?
4. How have cities evolved from the preindustrial to the postindustrial eras?
5. How do the institutions of government work in the postindustrial city?
6. Does Chicago's government fit this model of city limits?

Week XII - Nov. 8

Simpson, An Insider's View of Urban Politics (Parts II and III)

Bibliography due Nov. 8th to be turned in. A detailed assignment for the paper for the course will be handed out.

1. The different styles of political leaders in U.S. cities.
2. Different types of government in U.S. cities.
3. What can we learn from these case studies.

Oral reports on bibliographies to be given.

Week XIII - Nov. 15

McKenzie, Privatopia (all)

1. What are gated communities?
2. What laws govern gated communities?
3. What problems exist because of gated communities?

Week XIV - Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Break

Week XV - Nov. 29

Sassen, The Global City (all).

Simpson, Chicago's Future, Part VI, pp. 482-490, 507-508.

1. How can cities be categorized today?
2. What are global cities?
3. Is Chicago a global city?
4. What are the consequences of being a global city?

5. What alternative futures lie ahead for Chicago?
6. What role do individuals play in the future of a city?

Oral report on your paper.

RESEARCH PAPER DUE, December 3rd.