

Political Science 551  
Fall Semester 2004  
Office Hours: Mon. 3-5 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. I have tried to select the readings carefully to reflect as many of the sub-fields in Urban Politics and the leading theories and studies in each of those fields.

The class will be taught in seminar style; therefore, 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 1) a Mid-term exam, 2) a collection of documents which you will assemble to present "An Insider's View of a Particular City", and 3) a research paper summarizing the urban politics literature and your conclusion about a particular topic in urban studies. Each of these will be worth 1/3 of your final course grade.

#### TEXTS AND TOPICS

#### WEEK

Week I - Aug.23

#### **Introduction to the Field of Urban Politics**

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, ethnicity, and poverty
  - e. Public policy (health, education, crime, poverty, etc.) and the distribution of services
  - f. Economic development
  - g. Suburban and Metropolitan Studies
  - h. Global City studies
2. The Old and New Chicago Schools
3. Introduction to the reading list for the Preliminary Exams for urban politics and policy.

4. The study of first hand sources:
  - a. speeches
  - b. newspaper stories and exposes
  - c. research studies
  - d. planning documents
  - e. participant observation

Week II - Aug. 30

### **Introduction and Discussion of Social Conditions**

Dick Simpson, ed., Inside Urban Politics - Parts I - III ,  
pp. 1-152.

1. Discussion of the Social and Economic Conditions:
  - a. Principal Social Conditions of Chicago
  - b. Principal Economic Conditions of Chicago
  - c. 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.)
  - d. How do social and economic conditions differ in other U.S. cities?

Assignment I: 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 in the Fourth Week.

Week III - Sept. 6

### **Labor Day - No Class**

Reading Assignment for Week III, Inside Urban Politics, Parts IV - V, pp. 153 - 313. (Even though there is no class this week, you are expected to do the reading. The discussion will take place under the other topics in future weeks.)

Week IV - Sept. 13

### **Power Structures and Regimes**

Clarence Stone, Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta 1946-88 (all)

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. How does the struggle for power differ in other cities and other eras from the Atlanta Stone reports on?
5. Report on social and economic conditions from an U.S. Cities

Reports: Report on the article, book, or book chapter you found on social or economic conditions of another city.

Assignment II: By the Fifth Week turn in your collection of information and a bibliography on the city you have chosen to study.

Week V - Sept. 20

### **Regimes in Chicago**

Simpson, Rogues, Rebels, and Rubber Stamps, (all)

1. How is machine politics defined (based on relevant sections from Rogues, Boss, 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. What are the five regimes which have existed in Chicago since 1833?
5. Is there a New Daley Machine, what evidence is there for such a machine? What are the implications of such a political power structure for the future of Chicago?

Reports: Report on your collection of information and the bibliography on the city you have chosen to study.

Week VI - Sept. 27

### **Race and Poverty**

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?

**Attend if possible:** Pierre de Vise Memorial Lecture by Professor Paul Kleppner, "Chicago Politics and Racial Population Change," 11-11:50 a.m. in Lecture Center E1

Week VII - Oct. 4

### **An Overview of Urban Politics**

Judd and Swanstrom, City Politics, Chapters 1-9

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

### **Review for Midterm Exam**

Week VIII - Oct. 11

### **Midterm Exam**

Week IX - Oct. 18

### **The Challenge of Urban Politics**

Judd and Swanstrom, City Politics, Chapters 10-15

1. The suburbs
2. Does democracy exist in the suburbs?
3. Governing the metropolis
4. The growth imperative
5. The challenge of urban governance

Week X - Oct. 25

### **Metropolitan Government**

Orfield, American Metropolitanities (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?

Assignment III: A detailed assignment for your research paper for the course will be handed out.

Week XI - Nov. 1

### **Los Angeles: The New Urban Paradigm**

Dear: From Chicago to LA (all)

1. The Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles Schools of Urban Studies
2. The Theory of Sprawl
3. Does the Geography Approach Make a Difference

Week XII - Nov. 8

### **Types and Distribution of City Services**

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?
7. What are some of the structural problems and issues for local government?

Week XIII - Nov. 15

### **Gated Communities**

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

### **Urban Elections**

Karen Kaufmann, The Urban Voter (all)

1. A Theory of Urban Voting Behavior
2. LA Elections from 1969-1993
3. New York Elections from 1965-1993
4. Urban Politics in the New Millennium

Week XV - Nov. 29

### **Global Cities**

Abu-Lughod, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles (all).

1. What are global cities?
2. Is Chicago a global city?
3. What are the consequences of being a global city?
4. What alternative futures lie ahead for Chicago?
5. What role do individuals play in the future of a city?
6. What has happened to cities like Chicago since September 11, 2001.
7. Oral report on your paper.

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE, December 6th.**