

## **POLS 210 Introduction to Urban Politics**

**Yue Zhang**

**Fall 2008**

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**Class Time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11-11:50, Burnham Hall B10**

### ***Course Description***

This course provides an introduction to the political life and major policy issues in cities and metropolitan areas. First, we examine political, social, and economic explanations for the origin and evolution of urban environments. We trace the historical development of local government institutions, investigate distribution of power, and analyze urban coalitions. In the second part of the course, we locate cities in regional, national, and global contexts, in order to develop a more comprehensive picture of urban politics. Finally, we analyze policy issues and challenges facing American cities and other urban areas across the world. We focus on a variety of urban policy issues including poverty, growth, cultural strategies of development, and gentrification.

### ***Requirements and Expectations***

You are expected to attend lecture and do all of the reading. The assigned materials must be read before class on the date that they are listed. Lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have completed the reading for that day and are able to analyze the content.

Your grade will be based on four components:

In-Class Midterm Exam: 20%

In-Class Final Exam: 30%

Research Paper: 30%

Class participation/attendance: 20%

The midterm will be in-class on Friday October 10, 2008. The final exam will be held at the time appointed by the registrar in December. There will be no make-up exams offered; if you miss an exam, the grade is a "0." The only exceptions are medical emergencies and deaths in the family, both of which require documented evidence of the situation. If you know in advance that you absolutely have to miss an exam, consult with

Professor Zhang at least one week in advance and you will be able to take the test before the scheduled test date but not after.

Students are required to write a research paper examining a particular urban issue and/or set of institutions. Paper topics should be developed in consultation with Professor Zhang. You must submit a one-page prospectus in class on October 13 describing your paper topic and sources you will use. Papers should be 7-10 double-spaced pages and are due on December 1 in class. Grades for papers will be based on both substance and style. Use proper grammar, appropriate language, and proofread and spell-check the final copy of every assignment. Unstapled papers will not be accepted. Emailed papers will not be accepted. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers will be penalized one third of a grade for every 24 hours that they are late.

Part of your grade will be based on your performance in the discussion sessions. The purposes of the discussion sessions are to help you better understand the theories introduced in lectures, to translate the literatures into your own urban experiences, and to provide you a chance to ask questions. In order to get full points in class participation, you must provide excellent comments regularly and demonstrate engagement with literature. In fact, the discussion topics may mirror the types of questions students will encounter in the exams.

Class attendance is required. If you must miss a class for any reason, please call or email in advance. If you know in advance that you may miss any classes during the semester, see me as soon as possible. An excessive number of missed classes will be cause for a failing grade in the class.

### ***Academic Honesty***

Cheating will not be tolerated. You must write your own papers and your own exams. Any student caught cheating will receive a failing grade in the class and be referred to the administration for disciplinary actions. Keep in mind that the technology that allows students to retrieve papers from the Internet also allows instructors to find those papers. If you are unclear what constitutes plagiarism please talk to Professor Zhang.

### ***Readings***

#### Required Texts

Judd, Dennis and Paul Kantor. 2007 (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: The Reader*. New York: Longman.

Simpson, Dick. 2004. *Inside Urban Politics: Voices from America's Cities and Suburbs*. New York: Longman.

Books are available at the UIC Bookstore. Additional readings are available on e-reserves. There is the chance that I will adjust the reading load or assign supplemental

readings (especially later in the semester); I will let you know about these changes at least one week in advance.

E-reserve URL: <http://uic.docutec.com/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=1498>

Password: Arkansas

### ***Course Outline***

#### **Week 1**

August 25 Introduction

August 27 What Is A City?

Mumford, Lewis. "What is a City?" in *The City Reader*

August 29 Development of Cities and Suburbs: A Historical Perspective

Bogart, William T. 1998. *The Economics of Cities and Suburbs*, Chapter 1

#### **Week 2**

September 1 No Class Labor Day

September 3 Machine and Reform Politics (I)

Erie, Steven. 1988. *Rainbow's End*, Chapters 1-2

September 5 Machine and Reform Politics (II)

Simpson, 21, 24, 29

Ehrenhalt, Alan. "The Paradox of Corrupt Yet Effective Leadership," *New York Times* (September 30, 2002)

#### **Week 3**

September 8 Machine and Reform Politics (III)

Welch, Susan and Timothy Bledsoe. 1988. *Urban Reform and Its Consequences*, Chapters 1 and 6

Simpson, 22-23

September 10 DISCUSSION: Machine and Reform Politics

September 12 Power Structures (I)

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 2 (Reading 7, Kantor and Savitch)

Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz, "Two Faces of Power," *American Political Science Review*

#### **Week 4**

September 15 Power Structures (II)

Dahl, Robert A. 1961. *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*, Chapters 1, 24-28

September 17 Power Structures (III)

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 1 (Stone)

Harvey Newman, "Historic Preservation Policy and Regime Politics in Atlanta," *Journal of Urban Affairs*

September 19 DISCUSSION: Power in Cities

#### **Week 5**

September 22 Racial Dimensions of Urban Politics (I)

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 4 (Editor, Sugrue, Rogers)

Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton. 1994. *American Apartheid*, Chapters 1, 2, 4

September 24 Racial Dimensions of Urban Politics (II)

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 5 (Editor, Baxendall and Ewen)

Simpson, 6, 12, 18

September 26 DISCUSSION: Race and Politics

#### **Week 6**

September 29 Urban Political Geography: Separation and Fragmentation (I)

Burgess, Ernest W. "The Growth of the City," in *The City*

Simpson, 16

October 1 Urban Political Geography: Separation and Fragmentation (II)

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 5 (Avila, Hayden)

October 3 DISCUSSION: Suburbanization

#### **Week 7**

October 6 Urban Elections: Street Fight Documentary, Marshall Curry

Kaufmann, Karen. "Racial Conflict and Political Choice: A Study of Mayoral Voting Behavior in Los Angeles and New York"

October 8 Structures of Local Government

Simpson, 31-32

Schwieterman, Joseph and Dana Caspall. 2006. *The Politics of Place: A History of Zoning in Chicago*, Chapter 11

October 10 **Mid-term Exam**

**Week 8**

October 13 Functional Politics and Public Services (I)

Lowi, Theodore, "Machine Politics, Old and New," *The Public Interest*

**Research Prospectus Due**

October 15 Functional Politics and Public Services (II)

Lipsky, Michael. 1980. *Street-Level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Service*, Chapters 1-2

October 17 DISCUSSION: City Bureaucracy

**Week 9**

October 20 City Finance

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 1 (Peterson)

Peterson, Paul, "Big Cities: Is the Problem Financial?" in *The Price of Federalism*  
Simpson, 1-4

October 22 Regions and Metropolitan Politics

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 7 (Editor, Orfield, Siegel)

Ostrom, Vincent, Charles M. Tiebout and Robert Warren, "The Organization of Government in Metropolitan Areas," *American Political Science Review*  
Simpson 37-38

October 24 DISCUSSION: Regions and Metropolitan Politics

**Week 10**

October 27 National Urban Policy and Local Policy Choices (I)

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 8 (Editor, Eisinger, Nivola)

October 29 National Urban Policy and Local Policy Choices (II)

Peterson, Paul, "Who Should Do What? Divided Responsibility in the Federal System," *Brookings Review*

Kincaid, John, "From Cooperative to Coercive Federalism," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*

October 31 DISCUSSION: Intergovernmental Relations in Urban Politics

**Week 11**

November 3 Cities and Globalization (I)

Sassen, Saskia. 2001. *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*, Chapters 5-7

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 2 (Reading 5, Savitch and Kantor)

November 5 Cities and Globalization (II)

Abu-Lughod, Janet, "Global City Formation in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles: An Historical Perspective," in *The Global Cities Reader*

Fainstein, Susan S., "Inequality in Global City-regions," in *The Global Cities Reader*

Zhou, Yi-Xing, "The Prospect of International Cities in China," in *The New Chinese City: Globalization and Market Reform*

Castells, Manuel, "European Cities, the Informational Society, and the Global Economy," in *The City Reader*

November 7 DISCUSSION: Cities and Globalization

## **Week 12**

November 10 Urban Policy Issues: Work, Welfare, and Poverty

Simpson, 7-10, 11, 15

November 12 Urban Policy Issues: Urban Space

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 6 (Editor, David, Kohn)

Jacobs, Jane, "The Use of Sidewalks: Safety," in *The City Reader*

November 14 Urban Policy Issues: Growth Strategies

Logan, John R. and Harvey L. Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*, Chapter 3

Downs, Anthony, "The Need for a New Vision for the Development of Large U.S. Metropolitan Areas," in *The City Reader*

## **Week 13**

November 17 Urban Policy Issues: The Political Economy of Urban Culture (I)

Judd and Kantor, Chapter 3 (Editor, Florida, Strom, Isenberg)

November 19 Urban Policy Issues: The Political Economy of Urban Culture (II)

Judd, Dennis, "Constructing the Tourist Bubble," in *The Tourist City*

Sanders, Heywood T., "Convention Center Follies," *The Public Interest*

Bernstein, Mark F., "Sports Stadium Boondoggle," *The Public Interest*

November 21 DISCUSSION: Urban Political Economy

## **Week 14**

November 24 Urban Policy Issues: Wal-Martization

Mitchell, Stacy, "Main Street Fights Back," *The Responsive Community*

Greenhouse, Steven, "Foiled Once in City: Wal-Mart Turns on the Charm for S.I.," *New York Times* (August 22, 2005)

November 26 DISCUSSION: Wal-Martization

November 28 No Class Thanksgiving Break

### **Week 15**

December 1 Urban Policy Issues: Gentrification

Betancur, John J. "The Politics of Gentrification: The Case of West Town in Chicago," *Urban Affairs Review*

Smith, Neil. 1996. *The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City*, Chapters 3, 8

#### **Research Papers Due**

December 3 People, Politics, and Urban Democracy

Simpson, 33-35, 20

December 5 Conclusion/Review for Final