



THE CHICAGO SEMINAR: THE POLITICS OF A GLOBAL CITY

Spring, 2005

(Syllabus as of 1/7/05)

Course website: (<http://faculty.nl.edu/cspirou/preschoolers.html>)

Sponsoring Instructors:

Terry Nichols Clark, Bill Sites (University of Chicago)

Bill Grimshaw (Illinois Institute of Technology)

Larry Bennett (DePaul University)

Costas Spirou (National-Louis University)

Bonnie Lindstrom, Wesley Skogan (Northwestern University)

Dick Simpson, Michael Pagano, Evan McKenzie, David Perry, Robin Hambleton, Dennis Judd (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Note: Though each class session of this course is lead by designated discussion leaders, other course instructors also will join the classes throughout the semester depending upon the schedule.

Location and schedule of classes.

The seminar will meet at National-Louis University, 122 S. Michigan Avenue (Adams and Michigan, across from the Art Institute), from January 10 to May 2 (with breaks for Martin Luther King Day and spring break). The class will meet Mondays from 7:00 to 9:30 PM in Room 5008. We wish to especially acknowledge the efforts of Costas Spirou in making room reservations and creating a website for this class. We also wish to thank National-Louis University for its generosity in allowing us to use one of its classrooms.

Preamble

The Chicago Seminar: The Politics of a Global City, is offered by leading urban scholars from several campuses in the Chicago metropolitan area. The format for this course guarantees that it will be stimulating, challenging, fun, and at times entertaining in unexpected ways. It is taught by a group of scholars who have produced some of the most notable research on Chicago politics and on global cities. The mix of instructors will change through the semester, depending on topic. The course offers participants an

opportunity to work with faculty members and students from other campuses in a collegial, welcoming environment. It is designed primarily for graduate students and for professionals who possess the necessary academic background and interest.

Course participants will explore three themes:

Globalization. In many respects Chicago has been a global city for a long time. Since at least the 1850s Chicago's history and politics have been shaped by its connections to globalized circuits of finance, industry, trade, and immigration. But scholars seem to have reached a consensus that the recent period is qualitatively different – different enough that it can be distinguished by the term, *globalization*. In *The Global City*, Saskia Sassen asserts that a few large cities have become command points in the organization of the world economy and key locations for finance and for specialized service firms. Because of their pivotal role in guiding international corporate decisions and financial transactions, global cities have become magnets for highly paid professionals in corporate management, finance, marketing, law, and other sectors. Global cities also have become magnets for business visitors and for tourists because they offer a high level of urban amenities and an urbane lifestyle. Instructors and students will explore the ways that globalization has transformed Chicago by considering questions such as: Is Chicago a global city? Has it become more like other global cities, or has it retained a unique politics and political culture?

The new Chicago politics. In his book tracing the history of Chicago's politics, Dick Simpson asserts that a "new machine" has adapted to the impact of globalization. In several publications Terry Nicholls Clark asserts that a New Political Culture has changed politics all over the world, and that it has transformed Chicago's politics as well. The title of a forthcoming book by Larry Bennett and other scholars refer to "The New Chicago," which is characterized (among other things) by a complex ethnic politics, sweeping changes in housing, education, and other social policies; a renewed struggle between city hall and neighborhoods; an emphasis downtown revitalization and tourism; and a concern for regional infrastructure and governance. Instructors and students will explore the contours of the new Chicago politics by considering two key questions: What is "new" about Chicago's politics? Are the features that make it "new" present in other cities? Who wins and who loses in the new politics?

The transition from production to consumption. In his work on tourist cities, Dennis Judd has shown that cities all over the world fight for a share of international tourism by investing in an expensive infrastructure of convention centers, renovated waterfronts, sports facilities, entertainment districts, and other facilities devoted to entertainment, culture, and tourism. Chicago is no exception. In *The City as an Entertainment Machine*, Terry Nicholls Clark argues that Chicago has made a radical transition from a city of industrial production to a city of consumption. Instructors and students will examine the consequences that flow from an emphasis upon consumption by considering such questions as: How does the economy of the city of production compare with the city of consumption? Who benefits from the policies that make Chicago an attractive site for consumption by visitors?

By examining these themes, our goal is to clarify how cities around the world are changing, and to rethink the approaches we find in the scholarly literature. The three themes provide a sharp departure from the LA School, which has regarded globalization as a force that overwhelms local difference and variation. Our view is that the forces of globalization are modified by the social, cultural, and political characteristics of cities. More specifically, we proposed that in Chicago the interaction between the global and local have produced a new politics. We call our approach the New Chicago School. The discussions in this course will help chart the new directions in scholarship; ultimately, we hope that a book will emerge from these efforts.

Ground rules.

This course will be run in a seminar format, composed of a mixture of brief presentations by the instructors and a considerable amount of discussion involving every student in the class. It is essential that you be prepared to participate at all times. To this end, we ask you to observe a couple of ground rules:

- (1) Class attendance is required. If you must miss a class for any reason, please call or e-mail in advance. If you know in advance that you may miss any classes during the semester, contact one of us as soon as possible. An excessive number of missed classes may be cause for a failing grade in the class.
- (2) You are required to read and be able to thoughtfully discuss the course material assigned for each week's class, according to the schedule outlined in the syllabus.

Course requirements.

Students are required to produce a research paper for the course and to present this paper near the end of the semester (as indicated on the syllabus).

Students will sign up for this course under an appropriate topics or readings course at their home universities. Each student will be graded by the faculty member sponsoring the topics or readings course. Individual faculty members may modify course requirements for individual students, but in all cases the student must produce a research paper.

Reading assignments.

Many of the readings for this course are available through a website established for participants. The website address is: (<http://faculty.nl.edu/cspirou/preschoolers.html>). However, students are urged to purchase the following core books, which are available at the UIC bookstore: Terry Nichols Clark and Vincent Hoffman-Martinot, *The New Political Culture* (Westview); Dick Simpson, *Rogues, Rebels, and Rubber Stamps* (Longman); William J. Grimshaw, *Bitter Fruit* (University of Chicago Press); Janet L Abu-Lughod, *New York Chicago Los Angeles* (University of Minnesota Press); and Charles Madigan, *Global Chicago* (University of Illinois Press). Three chapters are assigned from Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics*, 5th ed. (Longman, forthcoming spring 2005); the 4th edition of this book currently is available for students

interested in purchasing it. Several chapters from Larry Bennett and J. Koval (ed.), *The New Chicago* (in press; University of Chicago Press), are assigned; this book will be available in August 2004. Other readings also will be assigned throughout the semester.

I. The New Chicago

Week 1 (January 10). Is Chicago a Global City (Part I)?

Introduction to the course. Dennis Judd will moderate a discussion involving all the instructors. A social occasion will follow.

JANUARY 17. NO CLASS (MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY).

Week 2 (January 24). The Old & New Machine

Discussion leaders: Dick Simpson and Bill Grimshaw.

Readings: “Party Machines and the Immigrants;” ch. 3 in Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics* 5th ed.; William J. Grimshaw, *Bitter Fruit* (University of Chicago Press), chs. 1-5; Dick Simpson, *Rogues, Rebels, and Rubber Stamps* (Westview), chs. 1,7, 9-10. [Note: the readings required this week factor in the additional week of preparation available to students. Please read all.]

Week 3 (January 31). Is Chicago a Global City(Part II)?

Discussion leaders: Larry Bennett and Dennis Judd.

Readings: Bennett and Koval, Introduction; David Moberg, “A New Economy? Chicago’s Precarious Balance” (in Bennett and Koval); Janet Abu-Lughod, *New York Chicago Los Angeles*, ch. 1, An Overview; Part I (chs. 2&3); ch. 5 (Chicago Becomes Fordist), ch. 8 (Fordist Chicago: Down but Not Quite Out), ch. 11 (Postapocalypse Chicago); William A. Testa, “A City Reinvents Itself,” ch. 2 in Charles Madigan (ed.), *Global Chicago*.

II. The New Politics

Week 4 (February 7). The Transformation of an Industrial City

Discussion leaders: Terry Nichols Clark, Bill Grimshaw.

Readings: Larry Bennett, “Chicago’s New Politics of Growth,” (both in Bennett and Koval); Terry Nichols Clark (ed.), *Trees and Real Violins: Building Post-Industrial Chicago*, chs. 1-3; Joel Rast, *Remaking Chicago*, chs. 2-4; Saskia Sassen, “A Global City,” ch. 1 in Charles Madigan (ed.), *Global Chicago*.

Week 5 (February 14). The New Political Culture

Discussion leaders: Terry Nichols Clark, Robin Hambleton.

Readings: Terry Clark and Vincent Hoffmann-Martinot (eds.), *The New Political Culture*, chs.1-4; Robin Hambleton (ed.), *Globalization and Democracy*, ch. 1.

Week 6 (February 21). The Politics of Ethnicity and Race

Discussion leaders: Bill Grimshaw and others

Readings: Rob Paral, “Latinos in the New Chicago;” May Patrice Erdmans, “New Polonia: Ghetto Immigrants, Professional Suburbanites; May Patrice Erdmans, “Urban Cultural Actors;” Padma Rangaswamy, “Asian Indians in Chicago;” John Koval, “Immigrants at Work;” Padma Rangaswamy, “Devon Avenue: A World Market” (all in Bennett and Koval); Ron Grossman, “Global City, Global People,” ch. 4 in Charles Madigan (ed.), *Global Chicago*.

Week 7 (February 28). Neighborhood and Grassroots Politics

Discussion leaders: Larry Bennett and Bonnie Lindstrom.

Readings: “The Challenge of Governance,” ch. 14 in Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics* 5th ed.; David Moberg, “Back to Its Roots: The Industrial Areas Foundation and United Power for Action and Justice” (in Bennett and Koval); other readings to be assigned.

III. The New Public Issues

Week 8 (March 7). Social Policies

Discussion leaders: Wes Skogan, Larry Bennett, Pauline Lipman.

Readings: Wes Skogan (reading to be assigned); Pauline Lipman, “Chicago School Reform: Advancing the Global City Agenda;” Larry Bennett, “Transforming Public Housing” (both in Bennett and Koval); other readings may be assigned.

Week 9 (March 14). Contested Cities

Discussion leaders: David Perry, Dennis Judd.

Readings: William J. Grimshaw, *Bitter Fruit*, ch. 8; other readings to be assigned.

MARCH 21: SPRING BREAK.

IV. The New Spatial Politics

Week 10 (March 28). Reconstructing the Downtown

Discussion leaders: Dennis Judd, Larry Bennett, Terry Clark.

Readings: Terry Nicholls Clark, *The City as an Entertainment Machine*, ch. 12; Larry Bennett (reading to be assigned); Charles Suchar, “The Physical Transformation of Chicago’s Central Area” (in Bennett and Koval); Lois Willy, *At Home in the Loop* (selected chapters).

Week 11 (April 4). Tourism and the Consumption City

Discussion leaders: Terry Clark, Dennis Judd, Costas Spirou.

Readings: Terry Nicholls Clark, *The City as an Entertainment Machine*, chs. 1-3; “Reviving the Central Cities,” ch. 13 in Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics* 5th ed.; “Urban Beautification: The Millennium Park, and the Construction of a New Municipal Identity in Chicago” (in Bennett and Koval); Larry Bennett and Costas Spirou, *It Ain’t Hardly Sportin’*, chs. 5&6; Dennis R. Judd, “Visitors and the Spatial Ecology of the City,” in Lily M. Hoffman, Susan Fainstein, and Dennis Judd (ed.), *Cities and Visitors*.

Week 12 (April 11). Chicago and the New Regionalism.

Discussion leaders: Michael Pagano, Bonnie Lindstrom, Evan McKenzie.

Readings: Bonnie Lindstrom, “The Metropolitan Mayors’ Caucus;” Larry Bennett, “Regionalism in a Historically Divided Metropolis;” Joseph Schwieterman, “Coalition Politics at America’s Premier Transportation Hub” (both in Bennett and Koval); Evan McKenzie (reading to be assigned); Michael Pagano (reading to be assigned); “Governing the Sprawled Metropolis,” ch. 11 in Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics* 5th ed.

Weeks 13 (April 18). Student presentations.

Readings: students’ research papers in progress.

Week 14 (April 25). Student presentations.

Readings: students’ research papers in progress.

Week 15 (May 2). Wrap-Up.

Discussion moderated by course organizers.

Note: A social occasion will follow the last class. Heck, it might even start *during* the last class.