

POLS 551 Seminar in Urban Politics

Spring 2022

Time: Tuesday 10 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: 1115 BSB

Professor Yue Zhang (yuezhang@uic.edu)

Assistant: Kaiyu Li (kli20@uic.edu)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces graduate students to the systematic study of urban politics. Urban politics as defined here is neither city politics nor local politics, although both are given considerable attention in the seminar. Instead, this course deals with a set of broad analytical issues of central concern to political scientists, including the distribution and exercise of political power in urban settings, the role of institutions and governmental structure in shaping policy process, the interplay between urbanization and governance, and the politics of urban development in a global context. Besides interrogating the theoretical foundations of urban politics, the course introduces students to some of the most up-to-date and critical debates in the field, so as to offer a comprehensive survey of the scholarly literature on urban politics. Due to the breadth of the survey, the course places emphasis on intensive reading rather than original research. A series of course assignments require students to synthesize the assigned course material; in addition, students will be required to complete a research paper on urban politics. Students who are planning to declare urban politics as a subfield will take more specialized courses in subsequent semesters.

REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance is required. If you must miss a class for any reason, please let me know in advance. An excessive number of missed classes (more than three, even if excused) is cause for a failing grade in the class.

This course will be run in a seminar style. Participation and reading will be expected of every participant. Normally each student should try to speak several times in each session. The discussion format means that casually reading the materials for this class would not be sufficient.

Each student will choose three weeks throughout the semester to write syntheses of the readings and give presentations. The synthesis should demonstrate a broad understanding and critical review of the readings, at a length of around 800 words. The synthesis should also include several questions for class discussion. Please post your synthesis on Blackboard by midnight of each Sunday before class. During your selected week, you will give a presentation of your synthesis for 10-15 minutes.

You are required to submit a 25-30 pages, double-spaced research paper on urban politics at the end of the semester. The abstract and bibliography of the paper is due on March 29. All students will present their research in the last session of class. Final papers are due on May 1, 2022.

Assignments must be handed in on time. Assignments handed in late will be graded down one full grade per day after the due date.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Place quotation marks around quoted material, and provide citations for any idea, major concept, or data/information from a source. Intentional plagiarism on any assignment can cause failure without a rewrite option. A second plagiarized assignment will result in failing the course.

If you are a student with a disability requiring some accommodation for participation in this class, please let me know. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services.

GRADING

Your grade will be based on three components:

Class Attendance and Participation: 20%
Synthesis and Presentation: 30%
Final Paper: 50%

READINGS

The following books need to be purchased. The rest of the readings are available on Blackboard or the UIC Library's website as E-books.

Dahl, Robert A. 1961. *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Peterson, Paul E. 1981. *City Limits*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Stone, Clarence N. 1989. *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas.

Trounstine, Jessica. 2008. *Political Monopolies in American Cities: The Rise and Fall of Bosses and Reformers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 STATEMENT

- Please do NOT COME TO CAMPUS if you have COVID-19 symptoms. See the Healthcheck app for a list of these symptoms.
- Students, faculty, and staff coming to campus or engaging in academic and clinical activities or field placements off-campus, are required to be vaccinated and to obtain a COVID-19 booster shot [once they are eligible](#). If you still need to obtain your vaccine or booster, you can do so [on campus](#) or at a [location near you](#).
- Prior to or upon returning to campus, re-entry testing will be required for all members of the UIC community, including those who are fully vaccinated and boosted. Given the limited availability of testing in the Chicago area and across the country at this time, we strongly recommend that you take advantage of [on-campus saliva testing](#) within 72 hours of your first visit to campus for work or study to fulfill your re-entry testing requirement.
- All students, faculty, and staff are expected to WEAR A MASK that is tight-fitting and covers both the mouth and nose when inside any building at UIC including classrooms, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals may remove their masks when alone in a private office or personal residence hall room, or if they have a medical condition, disability or other reason that prevents them from safely wearing a face mask. The university recommends using two-layer cloth (utilize the filter insert, if applicable), KN95 or procedural masks to cover your mouth and nose AT ALL TIMES. Also, consider double masking to provide a snugger fit. Single-ply masks, neck gaiters, and masks with exhaust valves are not acceptable masks on campus.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 at a non-UIC testing location, please report test results via the [UIC COVID-19 Reporting Tool](#). The UIC contact tracing team will contact students, faculty and staff who test positive using on-campus testing as well as those who self-report off-campus test results. The UIC contact tracing team counsels individuals on isolation, identifies and notifies their close contacts on campus, monitors both groups for COVID-19 symptoms, and connects individuals with campus and external resources to successfully complete isolation and quarantine. Note that on-campus positive testing results are automatically recorded.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

January 11: Introduction

No readings

January 18: Urban Politics Research: A Historical and Global Perspective

Mumford, Lewis. 1937. "What is a City?" in *The City Reader*

Burgess, Ernest W. 1925. "The Growth of the City," in *The City*

Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." *American Journal of Sociology*, 44(1): 1-24.

Davis, Diane E. 2005. "Cities in Global Context: A Brief Intellectual History." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 29(1): 92-109.

Roy, Ananya. 2005. "Urban Informality: Toward an Epistemology of Planning." *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 71(2): 147-158.

UN-Habitat. 2020. *World Cities Report 2020: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization*. (skim through)

*Documentary: *Urbanized*

https://i-share-uic.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_UIC/1k7iidj/alma99454652112005897

January 25: Political Machine and Reform Politics

Erie, Steven P. 1988. *Rainbow's End: Irish-Americans and the Dilemmas of Urban Machine Politics, 1840-1985*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 1-2.

Welch, Susan and Timothy Bledsoe. 1988. *Urban Reform and Its Consequences*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1 and 6.

Bridges, Amy. 1997. *Morning Glories: Municipal Reform in the Southwest*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 6.

Trounstine, Jessica. 2008. *Political Monopolies in American Cities: The Rise and Fall of Bosses and Reformers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction and Chapters 1, 5, and 7.

*Documentary: *Street Fight*

https://i-share-uic.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_UIC/1k7iidj/alma99466319712005897

February 1: Elitism and the Politics of Urban Development

Logan, John and Harvey Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- E-book available on UIC library website

Kantor, Paul and Dennis Judd. 2013 (7th Edition). *American Urban Politics in a Global Age*. New York: Pearson, Chapter 3.

- E-book available on UIC library website

February 8: Pluralism and Governmental Authority

Dahl, Robert A. 1961. *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in An American City*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

February 15: Regime Theory and the Politics of Coalition

Stone, Clarence N. 1989. *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta 1946-1988*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas.

Pierre, Jon. 2014. "Can Urban Regimes Travel in Time and Space? Urban Regime Theory, Urban Governance Theory, and Comparative Urban Politics." *Urban Affairs Review*, 50(6): 864-889.

February 22: Race, Representation, and Segregation

Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton. 1998. *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chapters 2 and 4.

Trounstine, Jessica. 2018. *Segregation by Design: Local Politics and Inequality in American Cities*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

- E-book available on UIC library website

Kantor and Judd, Chapter 4

*Documentary: *70 Acres*

<https://i-share->

[uic.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_UIC/1k7iidj/alma99421453112005897](https://i-share-uic.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_UIC/1k7iidj/alma99421453112005897)

March 1: Suburbanization and Sprawl

Kantor and Judd, Chapters 5 and 7

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

Katz, Bruce and Robert E. Lang, eds. 2003. *Redefining Urban and Suburban America*. Washington: Brookings Institute Press, Chapters 2, 5, 8, 12

March 8: Limited Powers of Cities and Multilevel Analysis

Paul E. Peterson. 1981. *City Limits*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Kantor and Judd, Chapters 6 and 8

Sellers, Jefferey, Anders Lidstrom, and Yooil Bae. 2020. *Multilevel Democracy: How Local Institutions and Civil Society Shape the Modern State*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.

- E-book available on UIC library website

March 15: Cities and Globalization

Sassen, Saskia. 2001. *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo* (2nd edition). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 5 and 6.

Savitch, H.V. and Paul Kantor. 2002. *Cities in the International Marketplace: The Political Economy of Urban Development in North America and Western Europe*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

- E-book available on UIC library website

March 22: Spring Break, No Class

March 29: Comparative Urban Politics and the Global South

Sellers, Jefferey M. 2005. "Re-placing the Nation: An Agenda for Comparative Urban Politics." *Urban Affairs Review* 40(4): 419-445.

Finkel, Eugene, Adria Lawrence, and Andrew Mertha eds. 2020. "Cities and Urban Politics." Newsletter of the Organized Section in Comparative Politics of the American Political Science Association, 30(1). (read the entire newsletter)

***Paper abstract and bibliography due on March 29**

April 5: Urban Theory Building Beyond the North-South Divide

Post, Alison E. 2018. "Cities and Politics in the Developing World," *Annual Review of Political Science*. Vol. 21: 115-133.

Robinson, Jennifer. 2011. "Cities in a World of Cities: The Comparative Gesture." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 35(1): 1-23.

Robinson, Jennifer, and Ananya Roy. 2016. "Debate on Global Urbanisms and the Nature of Urban Theory". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 40(1): 181-186.

Roy, Ananya. 2016. "Who's Afraid of Postcolonial Theory?" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 40(1): 200-209.

April 12: City Sovereignty and Urban Policy

Barber, Benjamin. 2013. *If Mayors Ruled the World: Dysfunctional Nations, Rising Cities*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

- E-book available on UIC library website

Davis, Diane. 2020. "City, Nation, Network: Shifting Territorialities of Sovereignty and Urban Violence in Latin America." *Urban Planning*, 5(3): 206-216.

Kauffmann, David, and Dominique Strelbel. 2021. "Urbanising Migration Policy-Making: Urban Policies in Support of Irregular Migrants in Geneva and Zürich." *Urban Studies*, 58(14): 2991-3008.

Stren, Richard. 2020. "International Agencies and Urban Policy Diffusion."

April 19: Prepare for Presentation, No Class

April 26: Student Presentation

***Final Paper Due on May 1**