

Spring 2009

PSCI 3071

Urban Politics

Instructor: Lapo Salucci
Department of Political Science

Email: lapo.salucci@colorado.edu
Web: <http://sobek.colorado.edu/~salucci/index.html>

Office: Ketchum 5
Office Hours: MWF 11:00AM – 12:00 PM
and by appointment
Phone: (303) 492-0850

Class Schedule and Location:
MWF 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM - KTCH 234

I. COURSE OVERVIEW

This course offers a broad overview of urban politics and policies with consideration of the interplay of globalization, private investment processes, citizen activism, and public policy processes. The course will focus initially on the politics of US cities, then will offer panoramic of cities around the world. This semester we give special attention to the local political dimensions of cities' infrastructure and expansion, both in the United States and other selected countries.

II. REQUIREMENTS

This is an upper division political science course that places a heavy emphasis on students' participation and writing. Class attendance is strongly recommended. **NOTE: repeated absence (more than 10%) may result in a low class participation grade.** Students are therefore expected to attend all class sessions and complete the assigned readings prior to class.

The final grade is based on participation, on a mid-term exam, a final project and a final exam; the grade is determined as follows:

- **Class participation: 20%.** This grade will be determined by the students' attendance and participation in the discussion sections. During discussion sessions, students will be called randomly to answer questions of relevance to the class topics. Students should come prepared to discussion sessions with a few questions on the week readings and/or lectures. I strongly encourage every student to participate actively in class; however, should you feel uncomfortable about speaking in front of your fellow classmates, you can email me questions and comments before each class. That will count toward your participation grade in the same way as in-class interaction.
- **Midterm Exam: 25%.** The midterm exam will test students on their knowledge of the material covered in first part of the semester. It will have both a multiple-choice section and an essay/short answer section.
- **Policy Brief: 30%.** This assignment will test students on their ability to use the theoretical knowledge they acquired in a practical way. Students will produce a brief on a topic of their choice amongst the ones proposed in class or will propose a topic to the instructor. Proposals are due in electronic format by March 13th. The purpose of the brief is to inform a local political leader on the issue(s) at stake and to propose policy recommendations based on the students' knowledge. The brief's length should be between 10 and 12 double-spaced pages (6-8 single-spaced). Further details on the brief's format will be provided in class. The brief is due in class on Friday, April 17th. Students are required to deliver BOTH an electronic AND a hard copy of their briefs. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a 10% grade reduction. The late delivery policy is as follows: no brief will be accepted after 12:50pm of the day of the deadline. Missing the deadline will result in a zero in the assignment grade.
- **Final Exam: 25%.** The final exam will test students on their knowledge of the material covered in the last parts of the semester. It will have both a multiple-choice section and an essay/short answer section.

III. READINGS

Readings will include both books and articles.

The following books are required (or optional where marked) for the class and are available for purchase at the UMC bookstore:

- Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, “City Politics – The Political Economy of Urban America” (6th edition), Pearson Longman, 2008 (REQUIRED)

Assigned articles and book chapters are listed in the course schedule. Links to the articles are on the class’ website.

Please remember to check the class website and my blog for updates and changes in the schedule:

<http://sobek.colorado.edu/~salucci/> (‘teaching’ section and ‘blog’ section)

IV. SCHEDULE

Dates to Remember:

- **Friday February 27th:** In-Class Midterm Exam
- **Monday March 30th – Friday April 3rd:** Simulation
- **Friday March 13th:** Policy Brief proposal deadline
- **Friday April 17th:** Policy Brief Due in Class
- **Friday May 1st:** In-Class Final Exam

Part I: The Modern American City

Week #1: Introduction

Mon. Jan. 12

Class description & Introduction to topics

No readings

Wed. Jan. 14

Introduction on Cities

Presentation / City Politics, Ch. 1, pp 1-10

Fri. Jan. 16

The Political Legacy of America’s Urban Past

City Politics, Ch. 2, pp. 11-41

Week #2: The Struggle for Primacy and Power

Mon. Jan. 19

NO CLASS: Martin Luther King Day

Wed. Jan. 21

Party Machines and the Immigrants

City Politics, Ch. 3, pp. 46-66

The Reform Crusades

City Politics, Ch. 4, pp. 70-99

Fri. Jan. 23

Discussion

Assignment: watch “Gangs of New York”, by Martin Scorsese (2002)

Week #3: The Urban Crisis of the Twentieth Century

Mon. Jan. 26

Race, Ethnicity and National Politics

City Politics, Ch. 5, pp. 103-124

Wed. Jan. 28

National Policy and the City/Suburban Divide

City Politics, Ch. 6, pp. 128-151

TED Talks: James Howard Kunstler: The tragedy of suburbia

Fri. Jan. 30

Urban Policy and the Politics of Race – The Rise of the Sunbelt

City Politics, Ch. 7, pp. 156-182, Ch. 8, pp. 187-206

TED Talks: Majora Carter: Greening the ghetto

Week #4: The Fractured Metropolis

Mon. Feb. 2

The Politics of Race and Ethnicity: The Cities

City Politics, Ch. 9, pp. 209-235

Wed. Feb. 4

Enclave Politics: The Suburbs

City Politics, Ch. 10, pp. 237-270

Fri. Feb. 6

Discussion

Week #5: Urban Governance I

Mon. Feb. 9

Governing the Sprawled Metropolis

City Politics, Ch. 11, pp. 273-300

Wed. Feb. 11

City Finances & Dynamics of Growth

City Politics, Ch. 12, pp. 302-329

Fri. Feb. 13

The Fall and Rise of Inner Cities

City Politics, Ch. 13, pp. 331-360

Week #6: Urban Governance II

Mon. Feb. 16

Governance in the Global Era

City Politics, Ch. 14, pp. 362-390

Wed. Feb. 18

The Political Fault Lines of the Global Era

City Politics, Ch. 15, pp. 392-398

Fri. Feb. 20

Discussion

Part II: Cities and Politics in the Contemporary US

Week #7: Introduction – The challenges of 21st Century

Mon. Feb. 23

American Cities in the 21st Century

1. Alan Berube, MetroNation- How U.S. Metropolitan Areas Fuel American Prosperity, Brookings, November 06, 2007, (Executive Summary and Part III ONLY)
2. “In Place of God,” The Economist, May 3, 2007,
3. “The Reinvention Test,” The Economist, May 3, 2007,
4. “Et in Suburbia Ego?,” The Economist, May 3, 2007,

Wed. Feb. 25

The Challenges of Megacities

GlobeScan & MRC McLean Hazel for Siemens. 2007. “Megacity Challenges”. Siemens AG.

Fri. Feb. 27

In-Class Midterm Exam

Week #8: US Metropolis I

Mon. Mar. 2

Chicago and its success

1. “Survey: Daley City,” The Economist 378, no. 8469 (March 18, 2006).
2. “Survey: Brawn Yields to Brains,” The Economist 378, no. 8469 (March 18, 2006).
3. “Survey: Globocity,” The Economist 378, no. 8469 (March 18, 2006).
4. “Survey: No Little Plans,” The Economist 378, no. 8469 (March 18, 2006).
5. “Survey: A Success Story,” The Economist 378, no. 8469 (March 18, 2006).
6. “Survey: The Mexican Motor,” The Economist 378, no. 8469 (March 18, 2006).

Wed. Mar. 4

Urban Mobility and The End of the Housing Projects

1. Class Presentation / Notes
2. The Chicago Housing Authority: <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/253.html>
3. See also: <http://www.rapidict.org/Cabrini-Green>

Fri. Mar. 6

Discussion

Week #9: US Metropolis II

Mon. Mar. 9

New York, City of Migrants

1. The Brookings Institution, “New York in Focus: A Profile from Census 2000”, November 2003
2. Steven Malanga, “Do Immigrants Still Nourish Cities?,” City Journal, Summer 2007

Wed. Mar. 11

New York, City of Services

1. Edward L. Glaeser and Giacomo A.M. Ponzetto, “Did the Death of Distance Hurt Detroit and Help New York?,” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper Series No. 13710 (December 2007)

Fri. Mar. 13

Discussion

Policy Brief Proposal Deadline

Week #10: US Metropolis III

Mon. Mar. 16

Los Angeles

1. “City Gangs: Living with Cockroaches,” The Economist, Aug 2, 2007,
2. “Race Relations: Where Black and Brown Collide,” The Economist, Aug 2, 2007,

Wed. Mar. 18

New Orleans

1. L. K. Comfort, "Cities at Risk: Hurricane Katrina and the Drowning of New Orleans," *Urban Affairs Review* 41, no. 4 (2006).
2. "Will There Always Be a New Orleans?," *Economist* 378, no. 8467 (March 4, 2006).

Fri. Mar. 20

Detroit

1. "Developing Cities: The Lowdown on Motown," *The Economist*, February 1, 2007,
2. "The Rustbelt: Back from the Dead," *The Economist*, October 25, 2007,
Discussion

Week #11: SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week #12: Simulation

Mon. Mar. 30

Introduction to simulation

Wed. Apr. 1

Simulation

Fri. Apr. 3

Simulation Wrap-up & debriefing

Part III: Cities and Politics in the World

Week #13: Urbanization in the Developing World

Mon. Apr. 6

People move to the city

1. "The World Goes to Town," *The Economist*, May 3, 2007,
2. UN-HABITAT, *State of the Worlds Cities 2006/7: The Millennium Development Goals and Urban Sustainability: 30 Years of Shaping the Habitat Agenda* (Earthscan Publications Ltd., 2006).
Parts: 3 - "Urbanization: A Turning Point in History".
3. D. E. Bloom and T. Khanna, "The Urban Revolution," *Finance & Development* 44, no. 3 (September 2007).

Wed. Apr. 8

Megacities in the Developing World

1. UN-HABITAT, *State of the Worlds Cities 2006/7*, Part 4 – "Urbanization: Mega & Meta Cities, New City States?"
2. E. Ahmad, "Big, or Too Big?," *Finance & Development* 44, no. 3 (September 2007).

Fri. Apr. 10

Discussion

Week #14: Urban Poverty

Mon. Apr. 13

Overview

1. U.N.F.P.A., "State of the World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth," *New York* (2007), Ch. 2 "People In Cities: Hope Countering Desolation"
2. M. Ravallion, "Urban Poverty," *Finance & Development* 44, no. 3 (September 2007).

Wed. Apr. 15

Urban Slums

1. U.N.F.P.A., “State of the World Population 2007”, Ch. 3 “Rethinking Policy on Urban Poverty”
2. “The Strange Allure of the Slums,” *The Economist*, May 3, 2007,
3. “A Flourishing Slum”, *Economist* 385, no. 8560 (December 22, 2007).

Fri. Apr. 17*Discussion***Policy Brief Due in Class****Week #15: The Challenges of City Governance in Developing Countries**

Mon. Apr. 20

Issues of Governance

1. Matthew Maury et al., “Point of View: What Is the Biggest Challenge in Managing Large Cities? - Finance & Development, September 2007,” *Finance & Development* 44, no. 3 (September 2007),
2. “Thronged, Creaking and Filthy,” *The Economist*, May 3, 2007,

Wed. Apr. 22

Policy Solutions?

1. “Failures at the Top,” *The Economist*, May 3, 2007,
2. U.N.F.P.A., “State of the World Population 2007”, Ch. 5 “Urbanization and Sustainability in the 21st Century” and Ch. 6 “A Vision for a Sustainable Urban Future: Policy, Information and Governance”

Fri. Apr. 24

*Discussion***Week #16: Review, Q&A**

Mon. Apr. 27 & Wed. Apr. 29

*Review, Q&A***Friday May 1st : In-Class Final Exam****V. THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW / ACADEMIC POLICIES****Special Accommodations**

Your instructor will be happy, when possible, to accommodate the students’ needs. Please note, however, that requests for special accommodations need to be presented in a timely manner: at least two weeks prior scheduled exams / assignments.

Please refer to the following section of the syllabus for further information about the University policies.

Learning disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

Religious Observance

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. The above remark on timely signaling of special accommodation needs applies also to religious observance needs.

See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Class Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty members

have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

See policies at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at

http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Discrimination & Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment

(<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at

<http://www.colorado.edu/odh>