

Spring 2006

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WWS 538

Politics and Policy Making in Metropolitan Areas

WWS 538 examines urban political development in the United States to illuminate urban policy processes. The course will trace the historical development of local government institutions, analyze urban coalitions and the distributions of power, and tackle the relationship between politics and policy making in the areas of growth, education, cultural issues, and welfare.

Both urbanization and urban political systems are broadly defined in WWS 538. Our concern is with the forces of urban growth and change in all of their manifestations. We examine economic, social, and political developments in older and newer cities, as well as in suburbs, metropolitan areas, and urbanizing areas beyond the diffuse boundaries of the metropolis. Additionally, because local political systems remain heavily tied to and influenced by state and national government decisions we will look at cities within the context of a federal system.

Government is the central focus of this seminar because local governments make the authoritative decisions about urban public policy; determine whether activities are public or private, distribute public benefits, and allocate public burdens. Thus, this course views urban policy through the lens of institutions – that is, how local governmental structures affect policy outcomes.

Assignments

Each member of the seminar writes two papers for discussion in the seminar: an op-ed essay and a policy memo. Op-ed essays focus on a subject relevant to a particular seminar. Op-ed essays should be opinionated and provocative; the goal is to attract attention and spur discussion. Policy memos discuss an issue raised by the readings for a particular topic as if it were a decision before a city government. One effective strategy for the memo is to find a real ordinance for analysis. The memo should state the issue to be discussed clearly, and should make and defend a specific proposal or policy or critique an existing or proposed policy.

Op-ed essays and policy memos are distributed to each member of the seminar through Blackboard. They are due by noon of the Tuesday preceding the seminar, and should be no more than 750 words (three double-spaced pages). Op-ed essays and policy memos should be written for different topics; and normally one is prepared for a topic during the first half of the course, and the other for a topic considered during the last six weeks.

Each member of the seminar also writes a longer paper, examining a particular urban political issue and/or set of institutions in New Jersey, New York, or Pennsylvania. Paper topics should be developed in consultation with Professor Trounstine. Papers should be 15-20 double-spaced pages and are due on May 16th (Dean's date). Research papers do not have to be circulated to members of the seminar.

Grades:

Policy Memo	15%
Op-ed Essay	15%
Research Paper	40%
Participation	30%

Required Texts:

Myron Orfield, *American Metropolitcs: The New Suburban Reality* (Washington: Brookings, 2002).

Clarence N. Stone, *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1989).

Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980)

Rufus P. Browning, Dale Rogers Marshall, and David H. Tabb, *Racial Politics in American Cities* 3d ed. (New York: Longman, 2002).

All of the other readings are available on reserve (e-reserves and hard reserves at Stokes)

Topics and Assignments:**February 8th Introduction: Significance of Cities and Regions**

Bruce Katz and Robert E. Lang, eds. *Redefining Urban & Suburban America: Evidence from Census 2000*. Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2003. Chapters 2, 5, 8, 12

Carl Abbott, *The New Urban America: Growth and Politics in Sunbelt Cities* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1987), 36-59, 248-262

Steven Clayton, New Jersey Briefing

February 15th Historical Evolution of Cities: Machines

Erie, Steven. 1988. *Rainbow's End*. Berkeley: University of California Press, chapters 1, 3, 7

Harold F. Gosnell, *Negro Politicians* (U of Chicago, 1977 [1935]), chapter 7

Merton, Robert K. *Social Theory and Social Structure*, The Free Press 1957, pgs 114-118, 125-136

Butterfield, Fox "Troubles of Boston's Mayor are Tied to Political Machine", *New York Times*, December 26, 1982

Sullivan, Joseph, "Elbowing in the Vote in Jersey City," *New York Times*, June 15, 1985

Chen, David "Among Voters In New Jersey, G.O.P. Sees Dead People," *New York Times*, September 16, 2005

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

February 22nd Historical Evolution of Cities: Reform

Trounstine, Jessica "Urban Empires: Causes and Consequences of Biased Electoral Systems in American Cities" Dissertation, chapters 3-4

Amy Bridges, *Morning Glories, Municipal Reform in the Southwest* (Princeton, 1997), Chapters 1,5,6,7

Hays, Samuel P. "The Politics of Reform in Municipal Government in the Progressive Era," 1964. *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, vol 55 pp157-169

Welch, Susan and Timothy Bledsoe, *Urban Reform and Its Consequences*, (Chicago, 1988), Chapters 1,6

Jim Yardley, "In Houston, a 'Nonpartisan Race Is Anything But,'" *New York Times*, November 30, 2001.

Jonathan P. Hicks, "A Model City in Nonpartisan Correctness," *New York Times*, October 21, 2003.

March 1st Power Structures

Clarence N. Stone, *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1989), chapters 1-5, 8-9

Robert A. Dahl, *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American Society* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1961), 32-51, 89-103, 305-325.

Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz, "Two Faces of Power," *American Political Science Review* 56 (December 1962), 947-952.

Timothy Egan, "Vast Influence of Proctor and Gamble Revives Old Questions in Cincinnati," *New York Times*, September 1, 1991.

Kirk Johnson, "Corporate Elite a Fading Force Over Hartford," *New York Times*, September 7, 1992.

March 8th City Politics at the Millennium: Bureaucracy, Services, Finance

Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980)

Stein, Lana. 1991. *Holding Bureaucrats Accountable*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, chapters 1 & 4

Theodore Lowi, "Machine Politics, Old and New", *The Public Interest* No. 9 (Fall 1967) pp. 83-92

David Ammons. 2002. *Tools for Decision Making: A Practical Guide for Local Government*, selections

Baldassare, Mark. 1998. *When Government Fails: The Orange County Bankruptcy*. University of California Press: Berkeley, chapters 1-2

Bhatnagar, Parija. 2005. "Burger, Fries, and fast-food tax to go?," CNN Money

March 15th City Politics at the Millennium: Racial and Ethnic Group Politics & Inequality

Rufus P. Browning, Dale Rogers Marshall, and David H. Tabb, *Racial Politics in American Cities* 3d ed. (New York: Longman, 2002). Read one chapter from each section

Sass, Tim R. 2000. "The Determinants of Hispanic Representation in Municipal Government." *Southern Economics Journal* 66:609-930

Joel Lieske; Jan William Hillard, "The Racial Factor in Urban Elections," *The Western Political Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No. 4. (Dec., 1984), pp. 545-563

Manny Fernandez, "Black Voters No Longer a Bloc, Are Up for Grabs in Mayor's Race," *New York Times*, (September 26th, 2005)

David Firestone, "Mayor Improves Image of Birmingham But Not Racial Split," *New York Times*, July 18, 1999.

Richard Lezin Jones, "Race, Writ Large, in Newark Mayor's Race," *New York Times*, May 5, 2002.

Alan Feuer, "Little but Language in Common," *New York Times*, September 6, 2003.

Patricia Leigh Brown, "In One Suburb, Asian-Americans Gain a Firm Political Foothold," *New York Times*, January 3, 2004.

March 22nd No Class Spring Break

March 29th City Politics at the Millennium: Divisions, Suburbs

Michael N. Danielson, *The Politics of Exclusion* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1976), 1-26.

J. Eric Oliver, *Democracy in Suburbia* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 33-67.

Judd, Dennis, "Enclosure, Community, and Public Life," *Research in Community Sociology*, 1996 vol 6 p 217-236

Edward J. Blakely and Mary Gail Snyder, *Fortress America: Gated Communities in the United States* (Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 1997). Pages 1-45, 144-150

Gerald D. Adams and Ilene Lechuk, "Gated homes in the Tenderloin; Residents make their city cul-de-sac a place where doors can be open," *The San Francisco Chronicle*, (April 4, 2005)

Charlie LeDuff, "Secession Bid, Fading in Polls, Still Stirs Hearts in the Valley," *New York Times*, September 24, 2002.

Robert B. Reich, "Separation of the Successful," *New York Times Magazine*, January 20, 1991.

Pam Belluck, "Declarations of Independence; the New American Spirit: Divided We Stand," *New York Times*, May 31, 1998.

April 5th City Politics at the Millennium: Regions

Myron Orfield, *American Metropolitcs: The New Suburban Reality* (Washington: Brookings, 2002).

Peter Drier, John Mollonkopf, Todd Swanstrom. 2004. *Place Matters*, University of Kansas Press, chapters 1,4

Morgan, David R. and Patrice Mareschal. 1999. "Central-City/Suburban Inequality and Metropolitan Fragmentation." *Urban Affairs Review* 34: 578-595

Vincent Ostrom; Charles M. Tiebout; Robert Warren, "The Organization of Government in Metropolitan Areas: A Theoretical Inquiry" *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 55, No. 4. (Dec., 1961), pp. 831-842.

Katz, Bruce, ed. *Reflections on Regionalism* (Washington: Brookings, 2000). Pgs 78-106, 127-171

David W. Chen, "Suburbs to City: Drop the Attitude; Reminding Bloomberg That He Needs Commuters Just as They Need New York," *New York Times*, November 24, 2002.

April 12th Cities in other Settings: National Urban Policy and Local Policy Choices

John Kincaid, "From Cooperative to Coercive Federalism," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 509, American Federalism: The Third Century. (May, 1990), pp. 139-152.

Peterson, Paul, 1995. *The Price of Federalism*. Washington DC: The Brookings Institution, chapters 3,4,8

Eisinger, Peter, "City Politics in an Era of Federal Devolution," *Urban Affairs Review*, vol 33. no 3, January 1998.

Finegold, Kenneth et. al. "Block Grants: Details of the Bush Proposals," The Urban Institute

Brock , Thomas et. al, "Welfare Reform in Miami: Implementation, Effects, and Experiences of Poor Families and Neighborhoods," MDRC summary report

OR

Michalopoulos, Charles et. al. "Welfare Reform in Philadelphia: Implementation, Effects, and Experiences of Poor Families and Neighborhoods," MDRC summary report

April 19th Urban Policy Issues: Theories of Growth

Paul Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago, 1981), Chapter 7

John Logan and Harvey Molotch, *Urban Fortunes* (California, 1987), Chapter 3

Lemann, Nicholas, "The Myth of Community Development," *New York Times Magazine*, January 1994

Eisinger, Peter, "the Politics of Bread and Circuses," *Urban Affairs Review*, vol 35, no. 3 January 2000

Swanstrom, Todd, "Semisovereign Cities: The Politics of Urban Development," *Polity*, Fall 1988

Cases of Tourism

Fogelson, Rick. *Married to the Mouse*, Yale University Press (July, 2001), chapters 1,4,9

Dennis Judd, "Constructing the Tourist Bubble" pp. 35-54, in *The Tourist City*, ed. Dennis Judd and Susan Fainstein (Yale University Press 1999)

Mark F. Bernstein, "Sports Stadium Boondoggle" (pp. 45-57), *The Public Interest* (132, Summer 1998).

Heywood T. Sanders, "Convention Center Follies" (pp. 58-72), *The Public Interest* (132, Summer 1998).

April 26th Urban Policy Issues: Growth Cases Continued

Smart Growth/Planning

Richard LeGates and Frederic Stout, *The City Reader*, Part 6 Urban Planning Theory and Practice, p339-418

Kim Murphy, "Portland Struggles to Draw the Line on Growth", *Los Angeles Times*, Dec 10, 1997, pp.1,16

T. Christian Miller, "A Growth Plan Run Amok" *Los Angeles Times*, December 17, 1998, pp. A1, A27-9.

Rick Lyman, "Living Large, by Design, in the Middle of Nowhere," *New York Times*, (August 15th, 2005)

Walmartization

Stacy Mitchell, "Main Street Fights Back" in *The Responsive Community* Vol. 10, #1

Paul G. Lewis and Elisa Barbour, *California Cities and the Local Sales Tax* (Public Policy Institute of California, 1999), Chapters 4,5

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

May 3rd Education

Marion Orr, "The Challenge of School Reform in Baltimore," in Clarence N. Stone, ed., *Changing Urban Education* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1998), 93-117.

Tamar Lewin, "For Mayoral Control of Schools, Chicago Has a Working Blueprint," *New York Times*, June 15, 2002.

Donald M. Herszenhorn, "Mayoral Control Changes the Politics of the Schools," *New York Times*, May 21, 2003.

Maria Newman, "New Jersey Finds No Simple Solutions in School Takeovers," *New York Times*, March 21, 1999.

Sam Dillon, "Some School Districts Challenge Bush's Signature Education Law," *New York Times*, January 2, 2004.

Sy Fliegel, "Parental Choice in East Harlem Schools" in Joe Nathan, editor, *Public Schools by Choice*

Mark Schneider *et al.*, *Choosing Schools: Consumer Choice and the Quality of American Schools* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 39-58, 261-274.

George Judson, "Private Business, Public School: Why the Hartford Experiment Failed," *New York Times*, March 11, 1996.

Robert E. Pierre, "Detroit Still Skeptical About School Vouchers And Who Really Profits; Despite Failing Classrooms, Voters Rejected Move," *Washington Post*, July 28, 2002.