

Spring 2009

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WWS 538

Politics and Policy Making in Metropolitan Areas

WWS 538 examines local politics and policy in the United States. 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, tourism, welfare, and education.

Municipal political systems are broadly defined in WWS 538. Our concern is with the forces of local 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 short 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. A tips sheet for writing memos is posted to Blackboard under “Assignments.”

Op-ed essays and policy memos are distributed to each member of the seminar through WebSpace. They are due by **9am** the morning of 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.

Assignments Continued

Each member of the seminar also writes a longer research paper, examining factors that produce a particular policy outcome in a city of the student's choosing. Paper topics should be developed in consultation with Professor Trounstine. Papers should be 15-20 double-spaced pages and are due on May 12th (Dean's date). Research papers are not circulated to members of the seminar.

Grades:

Policy Memo	20%
Op-ed Essay	20%
Research Paper	30%
Participation	30%

Required Texts:

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

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)

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

Weekly Topics and Reading:

Week 1 - February 2nd 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

Week 2 - February 9th Historical Evolution of Cities: Machines

Erie, Steven. 1988. *Rainbow's End*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pgs 1-24, 67-106, 236-266

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

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

Morton, David, "Little Big Man," *New York Times*, January 29, 2007

Week 3 - February 16th Historical Evolution of Cities: Reform

Trounstine, Jessica. 2008. *Political Monopolies in American Cities: The Rise and Fall of Bosses and Reformers*, pgs 21-61, 107-172

White, Andrew. 1890. "The Government of American Cities," *Forum*: 213-216

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.

Week 4 - February 23rd 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.

Week 5 - March 2nd Racial and Ethnic Group Politics & Inequality

Lopez, David and Yen Espiritu, "Panethnicity in the United States: a theoretical framework," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol 13 No 2 (April 1990)

Rufus P. Browning, Dale Rogers Marshall, and David H. Tabb, *Racial Politics in American Cities* 3d ed. (New York: Longman, 2002), chapter 1

Sonenshein, Rafael (1993) *Politics in Black and White*, Chapter 1

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

Kaufmann, Karen M. (1998) *Urban Affairs Review* "Racial Conflict and Political Choice: A Study of Mayoral Voting Behavior in Los Angeles and New York" (655-684).

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.

Week 6 - March 9th Bureaucracy, Services, Finance

Guest Speaker – Edward Sasdelli, Township Administrator, Township of Hamilton, NJ

Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980), chapters 1-9

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

Sterngold, James, "Orange County Bankruptcy: The Poor Feel the Most Pain," *New York Times*, December 5, 1995

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

March 16th No Class Spring Break

Week 7 - March 23rd Metropolitan Division

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

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

The Economist, "An Age of Transformation," May 31st, 2008

Ehrenhalt, Alan, "Trading Places," *The New Republic*, August 13, 2008

Week 8 - March 30th Solutions to Division

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

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.

Glaeser, Ed and Matthew Kahn, "Sprawl and Urban Growth,"
<http://www.economics.harvard.edu/pub/hier/2003/HIER2004.pdf>

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.

Week 9 - April 6th 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.

William Julius Wilson, *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor* (1996), chapter 1

Michael Porter, "The Competitive Advantage of the Inner City," *Harvard Business Review* (1995)

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

Week 10 - April 13th Theories of Growth

- Paul Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago, 1981), Chapter 7
- John Logan and Harvey Molotch, *Urban Fortunes* (California, 1987), Chapter 3
- 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
- Glaser, Ed, Jed Kolko, and Albert Saiz, "Consumer City"
<http://www.economics.harvard.edu/pub/hier/2000/HIER1901.pdf>
- Uchitelle, Louis, "As Public Works Languish Private Cash Sets the Agenda," *New York Times*,
January 6, 2008

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).
- Siegfried, John and Andrew Zimbalist, "The Economics of Sports Facilities and their
Communities," *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol 14, No 3 (Summer 2000) 95-
114

Week 11 - April 20th Growth Cases Continued

Planning

- Richard LeGates and Frederic Stout, *The City Reader*, p156-220

Walmarticization

- Hopkins, Daniel, 2004, "Discounting Politics: The Impact of Large Retailers on American
Communities,"
- 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)

Week 12 - April 27th Education

- Terry Moe, "Teachers Unions and School Board Elections." 2005. In William Howell, ed., *Beseiged: School Boards and the Future of Education Politics* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution).
- Hennig, Jeff, "What we can and can't learn from other cities," <http://www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov/advocacy/schools/files/csgHENIG%20p.pdf>
- 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.
- Michael Kirst and Katrina Bulkley, "'New, Improved' Mayors Take Over City Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan*, March 2000
- Mark Schneider *et al.*, *Choosing Schools: Consumer Choice and the Quality of American Schools* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 39-58, 261-274.
- 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.
- 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.