PSCI 3071

Urban Politics

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Office Hours: MWF 11:00AM – 12:00 PM
and by appointment
Class Schedule and Location:
MWF 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM – HLMS 211

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 first part of the course will focus initially on the political history of urbanization in the US. The second part will highlight urban politics & policy issues in American cities. This semester will devote particular attention to the issues of urban sprawl, environmental protection, education and crime. The third part of the focus will zero in on selected US metropolis for the analysis of their political issues.

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, two exams, and a policy brief. Your 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. We’ll have a class blog (please follow the link on my website). If you send me comments and questions to post on the blog, those will count as participation as well.

• Exam #1 (In-Class): 25%. The first 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 1. 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 9th. 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 class on the day of the deadline. Missing the deadline will result in a zero in the assignment grade.

• Exam #2 (In-Class): 25%. The second 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.

- **Extra Credit**: this assignment consists in choosing an article from selected sources (which will be provided during the semester) and critique it. The minimum possible grade is 0 points and the maximum is 5 (5% of the final grade). In no way the extra credit assignment can result in negative points.

## III. READINGS
Readings will include both books and articles.

The following books are required for the class and are available for purchase at the UMC bookstore:


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

Please remember to check the class website and my blog for updates and changes in the schedule: http://sohek.colorado.edu/~salucci/ ('teaching' section and 'blog' section)

## IV. SCHEDULE

**Dates to Remember:**

- **Monday March 1**: Policy Brief proposal deadline
- **Friday March 5**: In-Class Exam #1
- **Friday April 9**: Policy Brief Due in Class
- **Friday April 23**: Extra credit deadline
- **Friday April 30**: In-Class Exam #2

**Part I: The Modern American City**

### Week #1: Introduction

Mon. Jan. 11  
*Class description & Introduction to topics*  
No readings

Wed. Jan. 13  
*Introduction on Cities*  
Presentation / City Politics, Ch. 1.

Fri. Jan. 15  
*The Political Legacy of America's Urban Past*  
City Politics, Ch. 2.  

### Week #2: The Struggle for Primacy and Power

Mon. Jan. 18  
NO CLASS – MLK Day

Wed. Jan. 20  
*Party Machines and the Immigrants*  
City Politics, Ch. 3.

Fri. Jan. 22
The Reform Crusades
City Politics, Ch. 4

Week #3-4: The Urban Crisis of the Twentieth Century

Mon. Jan. 25
Urban Voters and the Reshaping National Politics
City Politics, Ch. 5

Wed. Jan. 27
The City-Suburban Divide
City Politics, Ch. 6

Fri. Jan. 29
National Policy and the City/Suburban Divide
City Politics, Ch. 7

Mon. Feb. 1
Urban Policy and the Politics of Race
1. City Politics, Ch. 8
2. TED Talks: Majora Carter: Greening the ghetto
http://www.ted.com/talks/majora_carter_s_tale_of_urban_renewal.html

Wed. Feb. 3
The Rise of the Sunbelt
1. City Politics, Ch. 9
Parts: I (Introduction), II (Why did the South raise again?), VII (Conclusions).

Fri. Feb. 5
Discussion

Week #5-6: The Fractured Metropolis

Mon. Feb. 8
The Politics of Suburban Development
City Politics, Ch. 10

Wed. Feb. 10
Governing the Fragmented Metropolis
City Politics, Ch. 11

Fri. Feb. 12
City Finances and the Dynamics of Growth
1. City Politics, Ch. 12

Mon. Feb. 15
The Fall and Rise of Inner Cities
City Politics, Ch. 13

Wed. Feb. 17
Part II: Contemporary Urban Politics Issues

Week #7: Urban vs. Suburban: The Debate on Sprawl

Mon. Feb. 22
The Bad

Wed. Feb. 24
The Good

Friday, Feb. 26
The Ugly?

Week #8: The Environment, Cities and Suburbs

Mon. Mar. 1 Policy Brief proposal deadline
The Greenness of Cities

Wed. Mar. 3
Emissions & Policies

Fri. Mar. 5
In-Class Exam #1 – Material from week #1 to week #7

Week #9: Immigration and Poverty

Mon. Mar. 8
Domestic Poverty
1. Urban Issues Ch. 1: Domestic Poverty

Wed. Mar. 10
Immigration & The City
1. Urban Issues Ch. 2: Immigration Debate

Fri. Mar. 12
Discussion

Week #10: Housing & Crime

Mon. Mar. 15
Housing here & there, now & then

Wed. Mar. 17
Crime Fighting & Crime Prevention
1. Urban Issues Ch. 7: Fighting Crime

Fri. Mar. 19
Discussion

Additional (non-mandatory) material:

Week #11: Spring Break - No Classes

Week #12: Urban Schools

Mon. Mar. 29
School Performance
1. Urban issues Ch. 5: Fixing Urban Schools

Wed. Mar. 31
Education and Race I
Urban Issues Ch. 6: Racial Diversity in Public Schools

Fri. Apr. 2
Education and Race II

Part III: Contemporary US Metropolises

Week #13: US Metropolis I

Mon. Apr. 5
Chicago and its Success

Wed. Apr. 7
New York, resurrected city of services

Fri. April 9
Discussion
Policy Brief Due In Class

Week #14: US Metropolis II

Mon. Apr. 12
Detroit, three decades in decline
1. "Developing Cities: The Lowdown on Motown," The Economist, February 1, 2007,
2. "The Rustbelt: Back from the Dead," The Economist, October 25, 2007,

Wed. Apr. 14
Denver, rising star of the West
2. Special on Denver on 5280, December 2009

Fri. Apr. 16
Discussion

Week #15: Simulation

Mon. Apr. 19
Check Simulation Instructions

Wed. Apr. 21
TBA

Fri. Apr. 23
De-briefing

Week #16: Wrap-Up

Mon. Apr. 26, Wed. Apr. 28
Review, Q & A

Fri. Apr. 30
In-Class Exam #2

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