

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4127: CITY POLITICS

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Arps Hall Room 0012

Fall 2012

Professor Vladimir Kogan

Office: Derby Hall 2004

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., and by appointment

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Course Description:

This course provides an overview of main themes in the development of American cities and an introduction to the growing research on local government and politics. We will focus on questions and topics that help us understand: (1) the major problems facing urban communities; (2) the economic, social and political forces that have shaped their development; (3) the structure and role of government in addressing urban problems; and (4) the major participants and stakes in city politics.

Required Readings:

1. Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, 2012, *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America*, **8th Edition** (ISBN: 978-0-205-03246-4)
2. Elizabeth A. Strom and John H. Mollenkopf (editors), 2007, *The Urban Politics Reader* (ISBN: 978-0-415-319996-6)
3. Additional readings (see course outline below), which are posted on Carmen

Course Format:

Each class will begin with approximately 50 minutes of prepared lecture, although substantial student discussion will be integrated into the presentation. Lecture notes will be posted on Carmen at least one hour before each class begins. The last 30 minutes will be reserved for a lively discussion and hopefully debate about the assigned readings. Each student is required to attend — and participate in — at least 12 discussion sections during the course of the semester. In addition, attendance is also mandatory on days when guest speakers are presenting.

Assignments:

1. Discussion Participation and Attendance (20% of Overall Grade)

2. Two Take-Home Midterm Exams (20% of Overall Grade Each)

The first midterm will be handed out on Thursday, September 27 and will be due at the beginning of class on Thursday, October 4. The second midterm will be handed out on Tuesday, November 6 and will be due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, November 13. For each exam, students will answer three out of five short essay questions and write one long essay.

3. City Profile (10% of Overall Grade)

In this assignment, students will compile a short written report about a major American city of their choice. Students can choose the municipality they will research, although the city must be located outside of Ohio and have a population of at least 100,000 people (as of the 2010 Census). The assignment will be handed out on Tuesday, September 4 and will be due on Thursday, September 20.

4. Final Paper (30% of Overall Grade)

The final paper builds on the city profile. For this final assignment, students will continue doing research on their city of choice. The goal of the paper is to document: (1) the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on the city government; (2) examine how local government and policy maker have responded to address the crisis.

Students will use a variety of resources to complete their research, but they will need to interview at least **four** local officials, stakeholders, or other local informants and incorporate the interview material into their paper. The final paper should be approximately 10 pages long (double-spaced, standard font). The papers will be due on the day of the regularly scheduled final exam for the course.

All assignments and exams must be uploaded to Turnitin.com. The deadline for uploading your assignment/paper is the same as for turning in your hard copy in class. The Turnitin class id is 5357625 and the password is cityhall.

Academic Integrity:

The Ohio State University takes academic integrity very seriously, and the punishment for students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism is draconian. Please review the Code of Student Conduct available here: <http://ugeducation.osu.edu/academicintegrity.shtml>.

To deter and detect plagiarism, students are required to upload their papers and exams to Turnitin.com, an online service that analyzes student submissions for plagiarism from published or online sources and from other students (including students who have taken the course in earlier years). You will need to register for a Turnitin account using the class id and password noted above.

Late and Make-Up Policy:

With the exception of the final paper, all assignments and take-home exams are due at the beginning of class. Assignments submitted more than 15 minutes after the class has begun will be assessed a 5

percent late penalty, and assignments submitted after the class has ended will be assessed a 10 percent penalty. No late assignments will be accepted after the day they are due.

Make-up exams and extensions will be allowed only in the event of a medical or family emergency. You must have documentation of your emergency (for example, a doctor's note) to be able to take a make-up exam or get an extension. After you provide this documentation, a decision will be made regarding whether and when you may take a make-up exam/get an extension. Similarly, any request for an incomplete must be accompanied by written medical documentation.

Grade Appeals:

You have one week from when the exams are returned to appeal the grade. All appeals must be made to your TA. You must submit a typed, double-spaced statement explaining why you are requesting a grade appeal and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings, and lectures. If you choose to appeal your grade, your TA reserves the right to decrease the existing grade. Her decision is final.

Course Overview and Schedule:

Week 0

Thursday, August 23: **Introduction and Course Overview**

Week 1

Tuesday, August 28: **Triumph of the City?**

Reading:

- Edward Glaeser, 2011, *Triumph of the City*, Introduction
- "A Top 10 List of Things to Know about American Cities" in *Urban Politics Reader*
- Royce Hanson et al, "Globalization and Leadership in American Cities"

Thursday, August 30 – **No Class**

Week 2

Tuesday, September 4: **The Limited City?**

***City Profile Assignment Handed Out**

Reading:

- Gerald E. Frug, 1979, "The City as a Legal Concept," *Harvard Law Review*: pp. 1062-1073, 1095-1120, 1149-1154
- "The Interests of the Limited City" in *Urban Politics Reader*

Thursday, September 6: **National Development and Cities**

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 2
- Edward Glaeser, 2011, *Triumph of the City*, Chapter 4

Week 3

Tuesday, September 11: Party Machines and Machine-Style Politics

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 3
- “Tammany Hall and the Democracy” in *Urban Politics Reader*
- “The Ward Organizations” in *Urban Politics Reader*

Thursday, September 13: Urban Reform Movement and Its Legacies

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 4
- “Writing the Rules to Win the Game: The Middle-Class Regimes of Municipal Reformers” in *Urban Politics Reader*
- Jessica Trounstine, 2006, “Dominant Regimes and the Demise of Urban Democracy,” *Journal of Politics*: pp. 879-893

Week 4

Tuesday, September 18: Cities and the New Deal

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 5
- “Swimming Against the Tide: A Brief History of Federal Policy in Poor Communities” in *Urban Politics Reader*

Thursday, September 20: Guest Speaker, Jim Gilbert (President, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9)

***City Profile Due**

Week 5

Tuesday, September 25: Exile to the Suburbs

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 6

Thursday, September 27: Urban Decline

***Midterm #1 Handed Out**

***Final Paper Assignment Handed Out**

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 7
- Edward Glaeser, 2011, *Triumph of the City*, Chapter 2

Week 6

Tuesday, October 2: **Guest Speakers, Kristen Easterday and Michael Hartley (Columbus Chamber of Commerce)**

Thursday, October 4: **Guest Speakers, Kenneth Paul (Chief of Staff, Columbus City Council President's Office)**

***Midterm #1 Due**

Week 7

Tuesday, October 9: **The Rise and Fall of National Urban Policy**

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 8
- "The Urban Electorate in Presidential Elections, 1920-1996" in *Urban Politics Reader*

Thursday, October 11: **Cities in a Federal System: The Intergovernmental Perspective**

Reading:

- Peter Eisinger, 1998, "City Politics in an Era of Federal Devolution," *Urban Affairs Review*: pp. 308-325
- Pietro Nivola, 2002, *Tense Commandments: Federal Prescriptions and City Problems*, excerpts
- "Urban Sacrifice," in *Urban Politics Reader*

Week 8

Tuesday, October 16: **Rise of the Sunbelt**

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 9
- Amy Bridges, 1999, *Morning Glories: Municipal Reform in the Southwest*, excerpts

Thursday, October 18: **Guest Speaker: Kent Scarrett (Lobbyist, Ohio Municipal League)**

Week 9

Tuesday, October 23: **City Finances and the Growth Imperative**

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 12

Thursday, October 25: **Guest Speaker: Laura Koprowski (Director of Public and Government Affairs, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission)**

Week 10

Tuesday, October 30: Politics of Fiscal Crisis

Reading:

- Congressional Budget Office, “Fiscal Stress Faced by Local Governments”
- Christopher W. Hoene and Michael A. Pagano, “City Fiscal Conditions in 2011”
- “Political Economy of Fiscal Crises,” in *Urban Politics Reader*

Thursday, November 1: Downtown, Inc.

Reading:

- “*City Politics*, Chapter 13
- Elizabeth Strom, “Culture, Art, and Downtown Development”
- Peter Eisinger, 2000, “The Politics of Bread and Circuses: Building the City for the Visitor Class,” *Urban Affairs Review*: pp. 316-333

Week 11

Tuesday, November 6: Movie: “Gangs of New York”

*Midterm #2 Handed Out

Thursday, November 8: Movie: “Gangs of New York”

Week 12

Tuesday, November 13: Guest Speakers, Bob Clegg (Campaign Consultant)

*Midterm #2 Due

Thursday, November 15: Politics of Race in American Cities

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 14
- “Can People of Color Achieve Equality in City Government? The Setting and the Issues,” in *Urban Politics Reader*

Week 13

Tuesday, November 20: Minority Incorporation

Reading:

- Rufus P. Browning, Dale Rogers Marshall, and David H. Tabb, 2003, “Has Political Incorporation Been Achieved? Is It Enough?” in *Racial Politics in American Cities*
- Neil Kraus and Todd Swanstrom, 2001, “Minority Mayors and the Hollow-Prize Problem,” *PS: Political Science and Politics*: pp. 99-105
- Zoltan L. Hajnal, “Black Incumbents and a Declining Racial Divide”

Thursday, November 22 – No Class

Week 14

Tuesday, November 27: **New Politics of Race**

Reading:

- Paula D. McClain, 2006, “Racial Intergroup Relations in a Set of Cities: A Twenty-Year Perspective,” *Journal of Politics*: pp. 757-770
- Reuel R. Rogers, “Minority Groups and Coalitional Politics”

Thursday, November 29: **Metropolitan Fragmentation and Urban Sprawl**

Reading:

- *City Politics*, Chapter 10
- Mark S. Rosentraub, 1997, *Major League Losers: The Real Cost of Sports and Who’s Paying for It*: pp. 1-25

Week 15

Tuesday, December 4: **Governing the Region**

- *City Politics*, Chapter 11
- “Regionalism Old and New,” in *Urban Politics Reader*
- Myron Orfield, “Building Consensus”