

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4127H: CITY POLITICS (HONORS)

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

Stillman Hall 0235

Spring 2014

Professor Vladimir Kogan

Office: Derby Hall 2004

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

E-mail: kogan.18@osu.edu

Course Description:

In this course, students will watch HBO's series "The Wire" and complete readings that engage key themes of the show. In particular, we will focus on: (1) the major problems facing urban communities in the 21st Century; (2) the economic, social and political forces that have shaped their development; (3) the role of government in addressing urban problems; and (4) the major participants and stakeholders in city politics. We will use "The Wire" as an analytical lens through which to understand the most important political development in American cities.

Course Goals:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have learned about:

1. The institutional, political, social, and economic context that shapes city politics and policy.
2. Challenges confronting major U.S. cities and urban areas in the 21st century, and the causes of these challenges.
3. The role of government policy as both a cause of and a potential solution to these challenges.
4. The political dynamics and coalition-building strategies necessary to effectuate city-wide policy change.

Required Materials:

1. *All required readings are posted on Carmen*
2. *You are responsible for acquiring all five seasons of "The Wire"*
You can buy the box set online through websites such as Amazon.com or use your (or your parents') HBO Go subscription. I encourage students to collaborate on getting access to the show.
3. *Students are required to bring a clicker (Turning Technologies) to class daily*
Clickers can be rented or purchased at the OSU bookstore. You can purchase the cheapest model available. Note: The software-only "Response Ware" *will not* work in this class. Instructions for linking a clicker to your student account are posted on Carmen.

Assignments:

- 1. Class Participation (10% of Overall Grade)**

Students can earn participation points by using their clickers to respond to questions incorporated into the course lecture and by taking part in class discussions. The questions *will not* be included in lecture notes that will be posted on Carmen.
- 2. Daily Reading Quiz (15% of Overall Grade)**

Students are required to complete the assigned readings and watch the assigned episodes of the show prior to the start of class. In the beginning of each lecture, students will use the clickers to complete a short quiz testing basic comprehension and recall of major facts from the readings and episodes assigned for that day (i.e., there will be no trick questions). Please note that if you only read HBO's plot summaries, you will not do well on the quizzes. While these summaries can be helpful in jogging your memory, they are not a substitute for watching assigned episodes. *Quizzes missed due to absences cannot be made up, but the lowest four quiz scores will be dropped prior to the calculation of the final grades.*
- 3. Midterm (15% of Overall Grade)**

The midterm will consist of two parts. Two take-home essay questions will be handed out on Tuesday, Feb. 4 and will be due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, Feb. 11. On Feb. 11, students will also complete an in-class multiple choice exam using their clickers. Students will have previously seen at least half of the multiple choice questions during regular lecture (see Participation and Attendance above).
- 4. City Profile (10% of Overall Grade)**

In this assignment, students will work in groups to 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 have a population of at least 100,000 people (as of the 2010 Census). The assignment will be handed out on Tuesday, Jan. 14 and will be due on Thursday, Feb. 18.
- 5. Final Paper (20% of Overall Grade)**

The final paper builds on the city profile. For this final assignment, students will again work in their groups to continue carrying out research on their city of choice. Groups will have the option of choosing a topic from a list that will be distributed in class or coming up with their own research question. The final paper should be 10 to 15 pages long (double-spaced, standard font). An outline of the paper and an annotated bibliography, worth 5% of the total class grade, will be due on Thursday, March 6. The final paper, worth the remaining 15%, will be due on Tuesday, April 8. Although students will work in groups on their research, the paper they write must be their own.
- 6. Group Research Presentations (10% of Overall Grade)**

Working as group, students will prepare a presentation to share the findings from their research with the class. *Each student must participate in one major speaking role during the presentation. One presentation grade will be assigned to all group members.*

7. Final Exam (20% of Overall Grade)

The final exam will have the same format as the midterm. Two take-home questions will be handed out on Thursday, April 17. They will be due at the beginning of the assigned final exam time on Monday, April 28, when students will complete the multiple choice portion of the exam using their clickers.

******A copy of all written assignments and exam essay questions must be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on Carmen. Assignments will be considered late and assessed a late penalty unless they are uploaded by the beginning of the class when they are due.***

Academic Integrity:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Students are required to upload their papers and written exams to Carmen, which utilizes Turnitin.com for plagiarism detection. This online service analyzes student submissions for plagiarism from published or online sources and from other students (including students who have taken the course in earlier years). To avoid plagiarism charges, students must cite all sources from which they get their information and use quotation marks when quoting directly from these sources. **Students are responsible for knowing how to correctly cite their sources; ignorance about proper citation standards will not be accepted as an excuse for plagiarism.**

Late and Make-Up Policy:

All assignments and write-ups 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. There will be an additional 10 percent penalty for each subsequent day that the assignment is late. *No assignments will be accepted more than one week late.*

Make-up exams and extensions will be approved only in the event of a medical or family emergency or a University-sanctioned event. Extensions must be arranged ahead of time. 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 and assignments are returned to appeal the grade. 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, lectures, and answer keys. If you choose to appeal your grade, I reserve the right to decrease the existing grade if I determine that the original grade was erroneously high.

Accommodations for Disabled Students:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Course Overview and Schedule:

PART I: HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN CITIES

Week 1

Tuesday, January 7: **Introduction and Course Overview**

Thursday, January 9: **National Development and Cities**

Reading:

- Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America, Eight Edition* (Boston: Longman, 2012): Chapter 2 (“The Legacy of America’s Urban Past”).
- Gerald E. Frug, 1979, “The City as a Legal Concept,” *Harvard Law Review*: pp. 1062-1073, 1095-1120, 1149-1154.

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 1-3

Week 2

Tuesday, January 14: **Machine-Style Politics and Political Reform**

***City profile assignment handed out**

Reading:

- Steven P. Erie, *Rainbow’s End: Irish-Americans and the Dilemmas of Urban Machine Politics, 1840-1985* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988): Chapter 2 (“Building the Nineteenth Century Machines, 1840-1896”).
- Samuel P. Hays, “The Politics of Reform in Municipal Government in the Progressive Era,” *The Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 55: 157-169.

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 4-6

Thursday, January 16: **Public Finance**

Reading:

- Helen F. Ladd and John Yinger, *America’s Ailing Cities: Fiscal Health and the Design of Urban Policy* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989): Chapter 1 (“National Trends and the Fiscal Health of Cities”).
- National League of Cities, “City Fiscal Conditions in 2012”

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 7-9

Week 3

Tuesday, January 21: **Guest Speaker**

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 10-13

PART II: ECONOMIC DECLINE AND DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, January 23: **Urban Decline**

Reading:

- Robert A. Beauregard, *Voices of Decline: The Postwar Fate of U.S. Cities, Second Edition* (Routledge: New York, 2003): Chapter 7 (“Crisis of Our Cities”).
- Douglas S. Massey, “American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass,” *American Journal of Sociology* 96(2): pp. 329-357.

Episodes: Season 2, Episodes 1-3

Week 4

Tuesday, January 28: **Exile to the Suburbs**

Reading:

- Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America, Eighth Edition* (Boston: Longman, 2012): Chapter 7 (“National Policy and the City/Suburban Divide”).

Episodes: Season 2, Episodes 4-6

Thursday, January 30: **City Limits**

Reading:

- Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1981): Chapters 1 (“City Limits and the Study of Urban Politics”) and 2 (“The Interests of the Limited City”).

Episodes: Season 2, Episodes 7-9

Week 5

Tuesday, February 4: **Politics of Economic Development**

***Take-home midterm questions handed out**

Reading:

- Peter Eisinger, 2000, “The Politics of Bread and Circuses: Building the City for the Visitor Class,” *Urban Affairs Review* 35(3): pp. 316-333.

Episodes: Season 2, Episodes 10-12

Thursday, February 6: **Race to the Top or Bottom?**

Reading:

- Neil deMause and Joanna Cagan, *Field of Schemes: How the Great Stadium Swindle Turns Public Money into Private Profit* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2008): Chapter 1 (“A Tale of Two Inner Cities”).
- Amanda Erickson, “Is It Time to Stop Building Convention Centers?” *The Atlantic Cities*, June 11, 2012.

Episodes: Season 3, Episodes 1-3

Week 6

Tuesday, February 11: **MIDTERM**

Thursday, February 13: **Guest Speaker**

Episodes: Season 3, Episodes 4-6

PART III: RACE AND ETHNIC POLITICS

Week 7

Tuesday, February 18: **Race and Ethnic Politics**

***City profile due**

***Research paper assignment handed out**

Reading:

- Kevin A. Hill, Dario V. Moreno, and Lourdes Cue, "Racial and Partisan Voting in a Tri-Ethnic City: The 1996 Dade County Mayoral Election," *Journal of Urban Affairs* 23(3-4): pp. 291-307.

Episodes: Season 3, Episodes 7-9

Thursday, February 20: **Rainbow Coalitions?**

Reading:

- Claudine Gay, "Seeing Difference: The Effect of Economic Disparity on Black Attitudes toward Latinos," *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): pp. 982-997.

Episodes: Season 3, Episodes 10-12

Week 8

Tuesday, February 25: **Politics of Minority Empowerment**

Reading:

- Zoltan L. Hajnal, "White Residents, Black Incumbents, and a Declining Racial Divide," *American Political Science Review* 95(3): pp. 603-617.
- Neil Kraus and Todd Swanstrom, 2001, "Minority Mayors and the Hollow-Prize Problem," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 34(1): pp. 99-105

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 1-3

Thursday, February 27: **Guest Speaker**

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 3-7

PART IV: POLITICS OF CRIME

Week 9

Tuesday, March 4: **Industrial Organization of Crime**

Reading:

- Stergios Skaperdas, "The Political Economy of Organized Crime: Providing Protection When the State Does Not," *Economics of Governance* 2(3): 173-202.
- Thomas C. Schelling, "What is the Business of Organized Crime?" *American Scholar* 40(4): pp. 643-652.

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 8-10

Thursday, March 6: **Race and Law Enforcement**

***Research paper outlines due**

Reading:

- Katherine Beckett, Kris Nyrop, and Lori Pfingst, 2006, "Race, Drugs, and Policing: Understanding Disparities in Drug Delivery Arrests," *Criminology* 44(1): pp. 105-137.

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 11-13

Week 10

Spring Break

Week 11

Tuesday, March 18: **Citizen-Police Interactions**

Reading:

- Vesla M. Weaver and Amy E. Lerman, 2010, "Political Consequences of the Carceral State" *American Political Science Review* 104(4): pp. 817-833.

Episodes: Season 5, Episodes 1-2

Thursday, March 20: **Bureaucratic Machines**

Reading:

- Theodore J. Lowi, 1967, "Machine Politics—Old and New," *National Affairs*.

Episodes: Season 5, Episodes 3-4

Week 12

Tuesday, March 25: **Guest Speaker**

Episodes: Season 5, Episodes 5-6

PART IV: EDUCATION

Thursday, March 27: **Urban Schools**

Reading:

- Helen F. Ladd, 2012, "Education and Poverty: Confronting the Evidence," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 31(2): pp. 203-227.

Episodes: Season 5, Episodes 7-8

Week 13

Tuesday, April 1: **School Reform**

Reading:

- Frederick M. Hess, *Spinning Wheels: The Politics of Urban School Reform* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 1999): Chapter 1 ("The Politics of Urban School Reform").

Episodes: Season 5, Episodes 9-10

Thursday, April 3: **Charter and Private Schools**

Reading:

- Patrick J. Wolf, Brian Kisida, Babette Gutmann, Michael Puma, Nada Eissa, and Lou Rizzo, 2013, "School Vouchers and Student Outcomes: Experimental Evidence from Washington, DC," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 32(2): pp. 246-270.

Week 14

Tuesday, April 8: **Group Presentations**

***Research Papers due**

Thursday, April 17: **Group Presentations**

Week 15

Tuesday, April 15: **Group Presentations**

Thursday, April 17: **Final Exam Review**

***Take-home final exam questions handed out**

****FINAL EXAM: Monday, April 28, 10 to 11:45 a.m.****