

Political Science 213: Urban Government and Politics Spring 2012

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Course Overview

American cities have long been symbols of our greatest potential and deepest failings as a society. Cities are homes of some of the nation's most prestigious universities, yet inner-city elementary schools are often ill-equipped to teach even basic reading and writing skills. Major cities such as New York and London are centers for the command and control of global trade and finance, yet wealth and power coexist alongside entrenched poverty and despair. Not far from the spectacular downtown skylines of cities like Chicago and New York are the high-rise public housing projects where some of the nation's poorest citizens are warehoused.

In this course, we will examine some of the key challenges faced by contemporary cities. We will do this in part by looking at cities historically, focusing especially on the development of cities during the 20th century. As you will learn, many of the problems faced by contemporary cities have their origins in policies and practices that were initiated many years ago. Only by understanding the historical roots of the contemporary urban crisis can we begin to develop effective solutions. By the end of this course, you will understand why cities experience many of the problems they do and, more importantly, what kinds of urban policies show the greatest promise in addressing these problems.

General Course Information

This course is fully online. All course materials except for the two books you are required to purchase (see below) will be posted on the course Desire2Learn (D2L) website for reading and viewing, and all exams and other assignments will be completed and graded online. Having said that, I will be available to you in person on a weekly basis during my office hours on Wednesdays from 1-2:45. My office is in the Northwest Quadrant B, room 5585, and I encourage you to stop by to ask questions, talk about the course, or just to introduce yourself.

There are a few computer skills and resources you will need for this course. First, you should have basic word processing skills, including the ability to type at a reasonable speed (at least as fast as you can write by hand). This is important because all the exams for this course are timed essay exams. If you are a very slow typist, completing these exams within the allotted time will be difficult.

In addition to word processing skills, you should be able to send and receive email and browse websites on the Internet. *Please note:* I will use your UWM ePanther email address to communicate with you during the semester, so you should check this account regularly even if you don't use it for any other purposes.

Finally, you will need routine access to a computer that has a broadband connection (such as Roadrunner or DSL) or a campus network connection to the Internet. *Dialup Internet access is not sufficient to pass this course!!!* If you don't have your own computer, you will need to use one of the campus lab computers, or perhaps a computer in the public library. The computer you use must have a basic word processing package such as Word for Windows. You will also need a web browser such as Windows Explorer or Firefox, and you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader for viewing and downloading pdf files.

Since this course is completely online, you will obviously not be attending lectures on a weekly basis as you do in a more traditional, face-to-face class. However, **it is extremely important that you devote a period of time to this class every week. I would suggest a minimum of 4-5 hours per week.** There are exams and other activities you must complete every week of this class, and if you fall behind, you will find it very difficult to catch up. Alternatively, if you keep up with the reading and other assignments, you will not only perform much better in the course, but you will also find the experience far more rewarding.

Course Requirements

As mentioned above, all of the instructional materials for this course will be posted on the course D2L site with the exception of the two books you are required to purchase. During each week of the course, we will cover a different theme in the field of urban government and politics. The reading materials for each week will typically consist of one chapter from the main textbook, *City Politics*, one additional reading related to that week's theme, and detailed lecture notes also focusing on that week's theme.

There are a total of 100 possible points for the course. Two principal activities will serve as the basis for your grade: exams and discussion posts.

Exams: There are three exams for the course, which will be given during the 5th, the 10th, and the 15th week of the class. The exams will consist entirely of essay questions. You will have 75 minutes to answer 5 of 6 questions, giving you 15 minutes to write your response to each question. *The exams will be non-cumulative.* That is, each exam will include only that material covered since the previous exam. Each exam will be worth 25 points.

Discussion Posts: As you can imagine, there is a lot of room for discussion and debate in the field of urban politics. One advantage of an online course is that it allows us to have "virtual" discussions with one another about the topics we are examining in which every class member has the opportunity to participate. Each of you has been assigned randomly to a discussion group of roughly 10 members. Each week, I will post a question for discussion relevant to the theme for that week that members of each discussion group will be asked to consider and respond to. Discussion posts should be relatively short, somewhere between 250-300 words. Each discussion post will be worth 2 points. In addition, you will receive 1 point for introducing yourselves to your discussion group at the beginning of the course.

The above components will account for the following proportion of your final grade:

Exam 1	25 %
Exam 2	25 %
Exam 3	25 %
Discussion posts (total)	25 %

In writing your exams and discussion posts, please take into account the following excerpt on academic misconduct from the UWM Office of Student Life Website:

Plagiarism includes:

- A. *Directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them; or,*
- B. *Using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them; or,*
- C. *Paraphrasing materials or ideas of others without identifying the sources.*

If a student is charged with academic misconduct, there are specific procedures, including the right of appeal, which must be followed by UWM. Sanctions imposed by the university in response to academic misconduct range from reprimands to expulsion.

Required Books:

- Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America*, 8th Edition. Longman, 2011. [ISBN: 978-0-205-03246-4; \$81.30]
- Saul Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals: A Practical Primer for Realistic Radicals*. Random House, 1989. [ISBN: 0-679-72113-4; \$14.00]

All books are available at the UWM Bookstore. In addition, *Rules for Radicals* is on two-hour reserve at Golda Meir Library.

Class Schedule

Week of January 23: Introduction to Urban Politics and Government

Reading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 1
- Dennis R. Judd and Paul Kantor, “The Evolution of Urban Politics in America”

Other Activities:

- Post your personal introduction to your Discussion group, due Sunday, January 29.

Week of January 30: Nineteenth Century Cities

Reading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 2
- John Gurda, *The Making of Milwaukee*, pp. 160-181

Other Activities:

- This week’s discussion post due Sunday, February 5.

Week of February 6: Machine PoliticsReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 3
- Mike Royko, *Boss: Richard J. Daley of Chicago*, chapter 1

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, February 12.

Week of February 13: Municipal Reform MovementsReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 4
- Andrew D. White, "City Affairs are not Political"

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, February 19.

Week of February 20: The Great Depression and the New DealReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 5
- John Gurda, *The Making of Milwaukee*, pp. 275-294

Other Activities:

- Exam 1 must be taken Thursday, February 23 between 8:00 am and 11:00 pm.
- This week's discussion post due Sunday, February 26.

Week of February 27: Race, Class, and EthnicityReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 6
- Edward T. Chang, "America's First Multiethnic Riots"

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, March 4.

Week of March 5: Urban Renewal and RedevelopmentReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 7
- Jon Teaford, *The Rough Road to Renaissance*, chapter 1

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, March 11.

Week of March 12: Milwaukee Socialism and Urban RenewalReading:

- John Gurda, *The Making of Milwaukee*, pp. 336-352
- Joel Rast, "Governing the Regimeless City: The Frank Zeidler Administration in Milwaukee, 1948-1960"

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, March 18.

Week of March 19: Spring Break

No assignments!

Week of March 26: National Urban PolicyReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 8
- William Barnes, "Beyond Federal Urban Policy"

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, April 1.

Week of April 2: Sunbelt CitiesReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 9
- Arnold Fleischmann and Joe R. Feagin, "The Politics of Growth-Oriented Urban Alliances: Comparing Old Industrial and New Sunbelt Cities"

Other Activities:

- Exam 2 must be taken Thursday, April 5 between 8:00 am and 11:00 pm.
- No discussion post this week.

Week of April 9: The Politics of SuburbanizationReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 10
- Michael Danielson, *The Politics of Exclusion*, pp. 27-39

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, April 15.

Week of April 16: Urban SprawlReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 11
- Mary H. Cooper, "Smart Growth"

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, April 22.

Week of April 23: Municipal FinanceReading:

- *City Politics*, chapter 12
- James R. Paetsch and Roger K. Dahlstrom, "Tax Increment Financing: What It Is and How It Works"

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, April 29.

Week of April 30: Urban Revitalization**Reading:**

- *City Politics*, chapter 13
- Alan Greenblatt, "Downtown Renaissance"

Other Activities:

- This week's discussion post due Sunday, May 6.

Week of May 7: Community Organizing**Reading:**

- *Rules for Radicals*, pp. 63-164
- *City Politics*, pp. 398-404 (skim rest of chapter 14)

Other Activities:

- Exam 3 must be taken Thursday, May 17 between 8:00 am and 11:00 pm.