

Urban Politics and Public Policy
Rutgers University - Newark
Fall 2019
Thursday 6:00 – 9:00pm
Hahnes 322

Professor: Domingo Morel, PhD
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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the politics and governance of American cities. The course will examine the distribution of political power in the city and assess how governing structures, political leadership, citizen participation, the role of the business community, and federalism, influence politics, decision-making processes, and policy outcomes. The course will consider various topics that help shape urban political life in America, including: public education, policing, city bureaucracies, housing, mass-transit, land-use and planning, demographic changes, social movements, and racial and ethnic dynamics. The aim of the course is to help students gain an understanding of the complexities of urban politics.

Course Format and Requirements

This course meets once a week. Attendance and active participation are important aspects of your class experience and evaluation. The course meetings will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, and student presentations. In addition to reading the assigned materials, students must come prepared to discuss current events as well. Each class will begin with a discussion of current events in urban politics.

Course Assessment

- 3 quizzes 5% each (15%)
- 1 short paper (10%)
- Presentation #1 – Introduce your group policy memo topic (15%): **October 10**
- Presentation #2 (20%): **December 5**
- Group policy memo (25%): **Due on December 19**
- Class participation (15%)

Quizzes:

The quizzes are unscheduled but will be announced at end of the previous class. The quizzes will be based on readings and class lectures.

Short Paper:

Students are expected to submit 1 short paper before the end of the semester. The paper will provide a critical analysis of the week's reading assignments. Students will choose which week to submit the assignment. The last day to submit a paper is Wednesday, December 4. The paper should be 2 pages in length and should include the following: brief summary of the readings, major arguments, analysis and critique of the readings, and two questions generated by the readings. Papers are due via e-mail (domingo.morel@rutgers.edu) by 8pm the Wednesday before class.

Presentation #1:

Students will give short presentations that outline the urban policy issue that they will examine in their policy memo. Presentations should be 5-7 minutes in length.

Presentation #2:

Students present the findings from their urban policy memo. Presentations should be 5-7 minutes in length.

Policy Memo:

Choose an actual, current urban policy problem (e.g. policing, water, immigration, schools, etc.). Your group has been hired by the City of Newark to propose a solution to the problem. Your memo should advance a strategy for promoting your policy objective and integrate the concepts we've covered in this class. Be sure to discuss:

- What is the issue and why is it a “problem”
- Why the timing is right to take up this policy issue
- Use your imagination to propose a solution to the problem
- What support do you need to implement your proposal (resources, government support, business partnerships, non-profit/community organization support, etc.) and how do you intend on securing that support?

The memo should be no more than 15 pages of double-spaced text (the page limit excludes references and endnotes). The memo is due at 6:00pm on December 19 via email to domingo.morel@rutgers.edu. Memos will not be accepted after this date and time.

Discussion/Participation:

Our class will benefit greatly from active participation from all class members. The unique analysis and personal experiences that each of you contributes to the discussions will help educate the rest of us. Class participation consists of the following components: (1) attending class; (2) Be prepared by doing the required readings (3) engaging regularly in class discussions.

COURSE POLICIES

Communications Inside and Outside of Class: Each student is responsible for all communications made during our class meetings as well as via e-mail. Periodically, the instructor will find it necessary to convey information to the class outside of our in-class sessions. In general, I will post any class announcements via e-mail to your Rutgers e-mail address.

Accommodations:

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as

accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.
- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does NOT have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

Learning Resources:

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)
Room 140, Bradley Hall
(973) 353-5608
<https://sas.n.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center>
- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
Room 126, Conklin Hall
(973) 353-5847
nwc@rutgers.edu
<https://sas.n.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>

Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity:

As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Electronic Devices

Cell phones should be off while students are in class.

Contacting the Professor

Students are encouraged to attend office hours to discuss course material, assignments and other academic concerns. Students who cannot attend office hours may email me to schedule an appointment.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is 1 required book for this course. The book is available for purchase at the Bookstore:

Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom. 2015. *City Politics*, 9th edition. Pearson Education, Inc.

All other readings will be posted on our class Blackboard site.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

The class readings may change slightly as salient policy issues may evolve over the course of our class. I will let you know about changes to the syllabus at least a week in advance.

The abbreviation “CP” will be used in the outline for readings from the *City Politics* book.

Date	Topic
September 5	Introduction Overview of syllabus and course requirements
September 12	Rise of American Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CP Chapter 1 and 2▪ Trounstein, Jessica. 2009. “All Politics is Local: The Reemergence of the Study of City Politics.” <i>Perspectives</i> 7 (September): 611-618. (Blackboard)▪ Emily Badger & Quoc Trung Bui. 2016. “Why Republicans Don’t Even Try to Win Cities Anymore,” <i>New York Times</i> (Blackboard)
September 19	Political Machines <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CP Chapter 3▪ Erie, Steven. 1988. <i>Rainbow’s End</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press, pgs 1-24, 67-106 (Blackboard)▪ Clarence N. Stone, “Urban Political Machines: Taking Stock,” <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i>, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Sep., 1996) (Blackboard)▪ Alan Ehrenhalt, “The Paradox of Corrupt Yet Effective Leadership,” <i>New York Times</i>, September 30, 2002. (Blackboard)
September 26	Reform <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CP Chapter 4▪ Trounstein, Jessica. 2008. <i>Political Monopolies in American Cities: The Rise and Fall of Bosses and Reformers</i>, pgs 21-41, 139-172 (Blackboard)▪ Amy Bridges, <i>Morning Glories: Municipal Reform in the Southwest</i>, Chapter 1 (Blackboard)▪ Welch, Susan and Timothy Bledsoe. 1988. <i>Urban Reform and Its Consequences</i>, Chapters 1,6 (Blackboard)

October 3

Mayor, Leaders and Political Power

- Domhoff, G. William. 2005. "Atlanta: Floyd Hunter Was Right." <http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/local/atlanta.html>
- Robert Dahl. 1961. *Who Governs?* Chapter 1- "The Nature of the Problem" (Blackboard)
- Clarence Stone, Regime Politics, Chapter 1 (Blackboard)
- This American Life Podcast, 84: "Harold," Nov 21, 1997. <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/84/harold>
- Podcast: "How Mayors Became Our Best Problem Solvers," On Point Radio (NPR), September 16, 2013. <http://onpointwbur.org/2013/09/16/how-mayors-became-our-best-problem-solvers>

October 10

**Immigration – Guest Lecturer: Prof. Janice Gallagher
Readings TBD**

October 17

No Class

October 24

Student Presentations on Urban Policy Memo Topic

October 31

Urban Policy: The Schools

- Henig, et al. *Color of School Reform*, Chapters 1 and 3 (Blackboard)
- Morel, Domingo. 2019. Takeover: Race, Education, and American Democracy. Chapter 1. (Blackboard).
- Russakoff, Dale. 2014. "Schooled." *The New Yorker* <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/05/19/schooled>

November 7

Gentrification

- Sullivan, D. and S. Shaw. 2011. "Retail Gentrification and Race: The Case of Alberta Street in Portland." *Urban Affairs Review*, 47(3): 413-432. (Blackboard)
- Rojas, R. (2017, August 9). A Revival Comes To Lift Newark, But Just for Some. *New York Times*, p. A16(L). (Blackboard)
- Newman, K. (2004). Newark, decline and avoidance, renaissance and desire: From disinvestment to reinvestment. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 594(1), 34-48. (Blackboard)
- Yi, K. (2017, July 12). Newark Law Intended to Curb Gentrification Fails. *NJ.com*. Retrieved 12 August 2017.

http://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2017/07/affordable_housing_law_fails_in_newark_on_annivers.html

November 14

Policing and the Carceral State

- Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: New Press. Pp. 1–19. (Blackboard)
- Forman, James. 2012. “Racial Critiques of Mass Incarceration: Beyond the New Jim Crow.” *New York University Law Review* 87:101–146. (Blackboard)
- Hinton, Elizabeth, Julilly Kohler-Hausmann, and Vesla M Weaver. 2016. “Did Blacks Really Endorse the 1994 Crime Bill?” *New York Times*. April 13. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/13/opinion/did-blacks-really-endorse-the-1994-crime-bill.html>
- Barstow, David. “Antidrug Tactics Exact Price On a Neighborhood, Many Say.” *New York Times*, April 1, 2000. <http://www.nytimes.com/2000/04/01/nyregion/antidrug-tactics-exact-price-on-a-neighborhood-many-say.html>

November 21

**Federalism and Preemption – Guest Lecturer: Gwen Prowse, Ph.D.
Candidate, Yale University
Readings TBD**

November 28

Thanksgiving (No Class)

December 5

Final Presentations