Urban Politics and Public Policy
Rutgers University - Newark
Fall 2020
Thursday 6:00 – 9:00pm
Online

Zoom Link:
https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/91451908267?pwd=QnV0NUhoWm5NcE10TURjVnZpdW5QUT09
Meeting ID: 914 5190 8267
Password: 141330

Professor: Domingo Morel, PhD
Office Hours: By Appointment
Phone: (973) 353-5103
E-Mail: domingo.morel@rutgers.edu

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 online via Zoom. Attendance and active participation are important aspects of your class experience and evaluation. The course meetings will consist of a combination of lectures and discussions. 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

- 4 Short Papers 20% each (80%)
- Class participation (20%)

Short Paper:
Students are expected to submit 4 short papers throughout the semester. The paper will provide a critical analysis of the week’s reading assignments and the PowerPoint lecture slides. Students will choose which week to submit the assignment. The last day to submit a paper is Friday, 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. Papers are due via Blackboard.
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: 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](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](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](https://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://sasn.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://sasn.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/

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

All readings will be posted on our class Blackboard site unless the link to the reading is provided on the syllabus.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Overview of syllabus and course requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Emergence of Cities and the Study of Urban Politics</td>
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<td>- Trounstine, Jessica. 2009. “All Politics is Local: The Reemergence of the Study of City Politics.” Perspectives 7 (September): 611-618. (Blackboard)</td>
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September 24  
**Political Machines**  

October 1  
**Reform**  
- Trounstine, Jessica. 2008. *Political Monopolies in American Cities: The Rise and Fall of Bosses and Reformers*, pgs 21-41, 139-172 (Blackboard)  
- Amy Bridges, *Morning Glories: Municipal Reform in the Southwest*, Chapter 1 (Blackboard)  
- Welch, Susan and Timothy Bledsoe. 1988. *Urban Reform and Its Consequences*, Chapters 1,6 (Blackboard)

October 8  
**Mayor, Leaders and Political Power**  
  [http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/local/atlanta.html](http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/local/atlanta.html)  
- Clarence Stone, Regime Politics, Chapter 1 (Blackboard)  
  [http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/84/harold](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/84/harold)

October 15  
**Immigration (Readings to be determined)**

October 22  
**Urban Policy: The Schools**  
- Henig, et al. *Color of School Reform*, Chapters 1 and 3 (Blackboard)  
- Russakoff, Dale. 2014.“Schooled.” *The New Yorker*  
  [http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/05/19/schooled](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/05/19/schooled)

October 29  
**Gentrification**  
  (Blackboard)  
November 5  Election Results Conversation

November 12  Policing and the Carceral State

November 19  No Class

November 26  Thanksgiving (No Class)

December 3  Final Discussion