

Marquette University, Urban Politics
Political Science 4291, Section 101
Fall 2011, TTh 2:00-3:15
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As a remedy to life in society I would suggest the big city. Nowadays, it is the only desert within our means.

Albert Camus

Course description: American cities offer a number of contrasting narratives: of inner-city decline and urban renaissance; of local challenges and global prospects; of socioeconomic isolation and social entrepreneurship; of policy failure and policy innovation. They offer us a rich set of cases with which to examine the political world and the functioning of American democracy. Through the lens of urban American, we will examine the structure of political institutions and their evolution, the exercise of political power, and the meanings and practice of citizenship.

This course is structured into three parts. We begin by tracing the historical development of local government institutions. We then turn to the distributions of power within cities and the political and economic incorporation of urban dwellers. We conclude by examining the challenges of city governance and opportunities for urban empowerment.

Course objectives: My hope is that this course is relevant to you on a number of fronts. First, as a student of politics, I hope you come away with a greater knowledge of local institutions and a stronger appreciation for how many politically interesting things happen in cities. My guess is that many of you will choose to live in a city after graduation; I hope this class inspires you to become engaged urban citizens. Second, you will learn a bit about how social scientists study politics. We will take advantage of the tremendous diversity across cities to develop a class dataset, which we will use to explore variation in key political and policy outcomes. Finally, and more broadly, this course is designed to teach critical thinking and writing skills. Political Science 4291 is designated as a writing-intensive course. As such, some class time will be dedicated to discussion and peer revision of written assignments.

Assignments: Grades will be determined based on weekly assignments, 2 short essays (6-8 pages each), peer reviews of your fellow students' essays, an observation paper (no more than 5 pages), a final paper, and class participation.

Weekly assignments: During the first week of class you will be assigned a U.S. city as your semester's "case study." On most Tuesdays you will be given an assignment regarding your case study to complete by Thursday's class. These quick assignments will help you prepare to write your short essays, and will be used to construct our class dataset on urban politics.

Short essays: You will write 2 shorter essays (5-7 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font). Essays will be based on your case-study city. Details on the assignment will be handed out 2 weeks prior to when they are due.

Peer reviews: Because this is a writing-intensive course, we will workshop each of your short essays. Students will be paired to serve as peer reviewers. You will be asked to critique your fellow student's essay (grammar, coherence of argument, style) and offer suggestions for improvement. These critiques must be emailed to me and to your fellow student by Thursday. We will then take time in class to "workshop" your papers, using the peer reviews as a starting point.

And here's the bonus: you may revise your essays after our workshops and re-submit them for grading.

Observation paper: I would like you to attend a city council meeting. You are to write a paper, no more than 5 pages in length, based on your observations. How was the community notified about the meeting? What issues were addressed? Who attended and who participated? How were the deliberations structured and how did they go? What decisions were made and how? This paper must be turned in no later than our last class meeting of the semester.

Meetings are held at City Hall, located at: 200 E. Wells St. (Wells @ Water, across from Pabst Theatre). You can find more information about when the council and its committees meet at: <http://city.milwaukee.gov/CouncilCommittees>. Meetings also stream live at: <http://city.milwaukee.gov/CityChannelLive> (although I encourage you to check out City Hall!)

Final paper: You are required to write one longer research paper (10-12 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font) based on your case-study city. Your final paper should draw on the semester's course readings; however, outside research is also strongly encouraged! All papers must address the following questions:

- (1) What in your opinion is the biggest challenge facing city X?
- (2) How did this challenge emerge and develop?
- (3) Are there things city X is doing to address this challenge? If not, why not? If so, have they been successful? What helps explain their success?
- (4) What would you propose city X do to address this challenge more effectively?

Extra Credit: Attend the Curtis L. Carter Art and Social Change Lecture. Tyree Guyton and Jenenne Whitfield will speak. When: Thursday, September 29th at 6 pm at the Haggerty Museum of Art. If you attend, I will add 10 points to the grade of one of your short essays.

Grades will be determined according to the following formulation:

Participation and attendance: 15%
Weekly assignments: 10%
Short essays: 30%
Peer reviews: 5%
Observation paper: 15%
Final paper: 25%

Grading scale

94-100 A
88-93 AB
82-87 B
77-81 BC
72-76 C
66-71 CD
62-65 D
62 and below F

Course Policies

The Basics

1. The success of this course depends upon your regular contributions to classroom discussion. I expect you to attend every meeting and to read all of the assigned readings. If you are unable to attend any given meeting, you must notify me in advance by e-mail.
2. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Papers should be your own and you must cite sources appropriately. I expect familiarity with Marquette's policies on academic honesty.

Plagiarism on any of the written assignments will result in an 'F' in the **course** (not just the assignment).

3. With the exception of a catastrophic event, I do not accept late work. I will deduct a half letter grade for each day that an assignment is late. Please see me to arrange accommodations for reasons of illness or family emergency.
4. Proper email etiquette. A professional email to a professor should read "Hi Dr/Professor _____" and state one's business clearly and without text-speak. I will do my best to send you a prompt response.

Disability Accommodations

Students requiring disability accommodations should register with the relevant campus office. I will be happy to accommodate in compliance with the ADA and Marquette University policy.

Citing Sources

Resources can be found at: <http://www.marquette.edu/wac/plagiarism/AvoidingPlagiarism2.shtml>.

The Ott Memorial Writing Center offers free one-to-one consultations on all writing assignments to the entire Marquette community. The writing center serves all writers - accomplished, fluent writers as well as those who struggle with written assignments. It's best to schedule an appointment early in the writing process. Most appointments last 30 minutes to an hour. Call 288-5542 to schedule. The writing center is located in Raynor Library 240.

Required Texts:

Glaeser, Edward. 2011. *Triumph of the City* New York, NY: The Penguin Press. (Glaeser)

Paul Kantor and Dennis Judd, eds. 2009. *American Urban Politics in a Global Age*, 6th Edition. Longman Publishers (KJ)

Course Outline:

8/30: Introduction: Why Study Urban Politics

- Syllabus Handout

Questions for Discussion: What do you want to get out of this course?

9/1: The City as a Political System

- KJ Chapter 1
- Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*, 1-40 (intro and ch. 1)

Questions for Discussion: What does Peterson mean by "city politics is limited politics?" What are "urban regimes?" According to Glaeser, what are the hallmarks of a declining city? What factors shape the success of today's cities?

9/6: Historical evolution of cities: 19th century America

- Burrows, Edwin G. and Mike Wallace. 1999. *Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898*. New York: Oxford University Press, 333-370.

Questions for Discussion: How did U.S. cities grow and develop over the 19th century? What were some of the key development and how do they continue to shape urban American in the 21st century?

9/8: Historical evolution of cities: Machine Politics

- Stone, Clarence N. 1996. "Urban Political Machines: Taking Stock." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 29(3): 446-450.

- Osnos, Evan. 2010. "The Daley Show: Dynastic rule in Obama's political birthplace." *The New Yorker* 83(3) March 8.
- Ehrenhalt, Alan. 2002. "The Paradox of Corrupt Yet Effective Leadership." *The New York Times* [September 30].

Questions for Discussion: What were the political machines? What role did they play in mobilizing voters? Is the political machine a thing of the past?

9/13: Historical Evolution of Cities: Reform

- Welch, Susan and Timothy Bledsoe. 1988. *Urban Reform and its Consequences*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-17; 104-120.
- Jonathan P. Hicks, "A Model City in Nonpartisan Correctness," *New York Times*, October 21, 2003.

Questions for Discussion: What were reformers trying to accomplish? What were the consequences of reform?

9/15: Watch in class: *Street Fight*

9/20: Deindustrialization

- Glaeser, Triumph of the City, 41-67. (ch. 2)
- William Julius Wilson. 1996. *When Work Disappears*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., pp. 3-24.
- Rybczynski, Witold. 1995. "Downsizing Cities." *The Atlantic* (available online).

Questions for Discussion: What effects did deindustrialization have on U.S. cities and their populations?

9/22: Residential Segregation

- Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton, *American Apartheid*, Chapters 2 and 4
- Glaeser, 69-92. (ch. 3)

Questions for Discussion: How did racially segregated cities emerge? What are the civic implications of residential segregation?

9/27: Public Housing and Its Reform

- Mark L. Joseph, "Is Mixed Income Development an Antidote to Urban Poverty?" *Housing Policy Debate*, Vol. 17, Issue 2, pp. 209-234 (2006) and Alan Berube, Comment, pp. 235-248.

Questions for Discussion: Can housing be used as an effective policy tool to address urban poverty and segregation?

9/29: Suburbanization and Urban Inversion

- Glaeser, 165-193 (ch. 7)
- KJ Chapters 15 and 16
- Ehrenhalt, Alan, "Trading Places," *The New Republic*, August 13, 2008
- Keen, Judy. 2011. "Blacks' exodus reshapes cities." *USA Today* [May 18].

Questions for Discussion: What effects has suburbanization had on cities? What about gentrification? Is "urban inversion" a problem?

10/4: Movie: TBD

10/6: In-class paper workshop

10/11: Racial and Ethnic Group Politics

- KJ Chapter 4
- Katz, Michael. 2008. "Why Don't American Cities Burn Very Often?" *Journal of Urban History* 34(2): 185-208.

In class: We will listen to This American Life's "Harold" (Act 1) available at:
<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/84/harold>

Questions for Discussion: How have racial politics affected urban politics? What answers does Katz give for "why American cities don't burn very often?"

10/13: The Immigrant Experience

- Michael Jones-Correa. 1998. *Between Two Nations: the Political Predicament of Latinos in New York City*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, pp. 49-90.

Questions for Discussion: Why do so many immigrants remain outside the formal political arena?

10/18: Political Incorporation

- KJ Reading 17: Paul G. Lewis and S. Karthick Ramakrishnan, Police Practices in Immigrant-Destination Communities
- Michael Lipsky. 1980. *Street-Level Bureaucracy, Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Service*, New York: Russell Sage, pp. 3-25.

Questions for Discussion: Who are "street-level" bureaucrats? How can they make policy? Can bureaucratic incorporation help advance the interests of groups that are otherwise underrepresented in the political sphere?

10/20 No Class – Fall Break

10/25: Local Elections

- Hajnal, Zoltan and Jessica Trounstein. 2005. "Why Turnout Does Matter: The consequences of uneven turnout in city politics," *Journal of Politics* 67(2): 515-535.
- Hajnal, Zoltan L. and Paul G. Lewis. 2003. "Municipal Institutions and Voter Turnout in Local Elections" *Urban Affairs Review* 38: 645-668.
- Anzia, Sarah F. 2011. "Election Timing and the Electoral Influence of Interest Groups." *Journal of Politics*. Forthcoming

Questions for Discussion: Why does turnout matter? What factors affect the level of turnout and the composition of the electorate in local elections?

10/27: Civic Engagement in the City

- Macedo, S., et al. 2005. *Democracy at risk: How political choices undermine citizen participation, and what we can do about it*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 67-115.
- Peters, Jeremy W. and Brian Stelter. 2011. "A Federal Study Finds that Local Reporting Has Waned." *The New York Times* [June 9].

Questions for Discussion: Why does "place matter for civic engagement?"

11/1: Guest Speaker

11/3: In-class paper workshop

11/8: Theories of Growth

- Glaeser, 135-164 (ch. 6)

- KJ Reading 8: Richard Florida, *The Power of Place: The Creative Class*
- Swanstrom, Todd, 1988. "Semisovereign Cities: The Politics of Urban Development," *Polity* 21(1): 83-110.
- Hoyman, Michele and Christopher Faricy. 2009. "It Takes a Village: A Test of the Creative Class, Social Capital, and Human Capital Theories." *Urban Affairs Review* 44(3): 311-333.
- Ouroussoff, Nicolai. 2006. "Outgrowing Jane Jacobs and Her New York." *The New York Times*, April 30

Questions for Discussion: What are the competing theories about what makes cities prosperous? What are the policy implications of each of these theories?

11/10: Cities in a Global World

- KJ Chapter 2

Questions for Discussion: How has globalization affected urban America? What challenges does it pose? What about opportunities?

11/15: Developing the City

- Glaeser, 223-246 (ch. 9)
- Eisinger, Peter. 2000. "The Politics of Bread and Circuses," *Urban Affairs Review*, 35(3): 316-333.
- Michael Porter, "The Competitive Advantage of the Inner City," *Harvard Business Review* (1995)
- Florida, Richard. 2009. "How the Crash Will Reshape America" *The Atlantic* (March)

Questions for Discussion: Should cities spend public resources to construct large entertainment projects? How can cities find their "competitive advantage?" Will finding this advantage help? How has the Great Recession affected cities?

11/17: Weak Cities and Strong Mayors?

- Gerber, Elisabeth and Daniel J. Hopkins. 2011. "When Mayors Matter: Estimating the Impact of Mayoral Partisanship on City Policy." *American Journal of Political Science* 55 (2): 326-339.
- Schragger, Richard C. 2006. "Can Strong Mayors Empower Weak Cities? On the Power of Local Executives in a Federal System" *The Yale Law Journal* 115: 2542-2578.
- Resmovitis, Joy. 2010. "Taking Schools Into Their Own Hands." *The Wall Street Journal* [August 16].

Questions for Discussion: What influence do mayors have? Can mayors empower weak cities?

11/22: Metropolitan Governance

- KJ Chapter 7

Questions for Discussion: How does the political fragmentation of metropolitan areas affect cities and their capacity to address the needs of their residents? What types of policies have been proposed to address this fragmentation?

11/24: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

11/29: Devolution and Federal-City Relations

- KJ Chapter 8
- Lemann, Nicholas. 1994. "The Myth of Community Development." *The New York Times* [January 9].

Questions for Discussion: How has devolution affected federal-city relations? What challenges does devolution pose for urban governance? Should the federal government do more to aid cities?

12/1: Politics, Privatization and the Public Realm

- Robert B. Reich, "Secession of the Successful," *New York Times Magazine*, January 20, 1991.
- Nelson, Robert H. 2005. *Private Neighborhoods and the Transformation of Local Government*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press. 301-313.

Questions for Discussion: In what ways have urban spaces been privatized? Are there civic and political implications of privatization? Should we contract out city services? Could private associations help impoverished neighborhoods?

12/6: Non-governmental policy actors

- Hula, Richard C., Cynthia Y. Jackson, and Marion Orr. 1997. "Urban Politics, Governing Nonprofits, and Community Revitalization." *Urban Affairs Review* 32(4): 459-489.
- LeRoux, Kelly. 2007. "Nonprofits as Civic Intermediaries: The Role of Community-Based Organizations in Promoting Political Participation" *Urban Affairs Review* 42: 410-422.

Questions for Discussion: How do nonprofits serve as civic intermediaries? What roles might nonprofits play in urban revitalization?

12/8: Social Entrepreneurship in the City

- Friend, Ted. 2011. "Borrowers and Lenders" *The New Yorker* 87(8).
- Royte, Elizabeth. 2009. "Street Farmer." *The New York Times* [July 5].
- Bittman, Mark. 2011. "Imagining Detroit." *The New York Times* [May 17].
- Geraci, John. 2011. "Imagining the Data-Driven City." Blog post at: <http://johngeraci.com/blog/2011/06/imagining-the-data-driven-city/>.

Questions for Discussion: How are social entrepreneurs reshaping urban places?

Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment
30-Aug	Introduction	
1-Sep	The City as a Political System	Assignment 1 due
6-Sep	Historical evolution of cities: 19th century America	
8-Sep	Historical evolution of cities: Machine Politics	
13-Sep	Historical evolution of cities: Reform	Assignment 2 due
15-Sep	In-class movie	
20-Sep	Deindustrialization	
22-Sep	Residential Segregation	Assignment 3 due
27-Sep	Public Housing and its Reform	
29-Sep	Suburbanization and Urban Inversion	
4-Oct	In-class movie	Short Essay 1 due
6-Oct	In-class paper workshop	
11-Oct	Racial and Ethnic Group Politics	Assignment 4 due
13-Oct	Immigration	
18-Oct	Political Incorporation	
20-Oct	No Class	
25-Oct	Urban Elections	Assignment 5 due
27-Oct	Civic Engagement in the City	
1-Nov	Guest Speaker	Short Essay 2 due
3-Nov	In-class paper workshop	
8-Nov	Theories of Growth	
10-Nov	Cities in a Global World	Assignment 6 due
15-Nov	Developing the City	
17-Nov	Weak Cities and Strong Mayors?	Assignment 7 due
22-Nov	Metropolitan Governance	
24-Nov	No Class	
29-Nov	Devolution and Federal-City Relations	
1-Dec	Politics, Privatization and the Public Realm	Assignment 8 due
6-Dec	Non-governmental policy actors	
8-Dec	Social Entrepreneurship in the City	
15-Dec		Final papers due by 10:00 a.m.

Assignments

Assignment 1: I'm new to Milwaukee. So, here's how you can help orient me to my new city. Take a break from Marquette's campus. Go out and explore Milwaukee. Find a place that you'd recommend that I visit. It could be a hidden gem (bowling alley, restaurant, place to hear music) or a public treasure (park, library, museum). Write 2-3 paragraphs about that place. Why should I visit it? What inspiration did you find there? What does it show about Milwaukee?

Assignment 2: Find out what form of government your city has. Does it have a mayor-council or a council-manager form of government?

Assignment 3: Choose 2 zipcodes from your case-study city (Google can be quite helpful here). Using the census web site's Fact-Finder (<http://factfinder.census.gov>), gather data. First, print out a "fact sheet" for each zipcode. Compare the two neighborhoods, and make a list of the 5-7 disparities (or similarities) which you find most striking. Write a couple of paragraphs about your findings, your reflections upon them, and any questions they raise in your mind.

Assignment 4: Go to the U.S. Census. Find the latest estimates of the racial and ethnic composition of your city.

Assignment 5: Does your city have partisan or nonpartisan elections? How are council members elected? Are they elected on a citywide basis (at-large) or by ward? Find out when your city holds its local election. What was voter turnout in the last *local* election?

Assignment 6: Go to the U.S. Census. Find the latest estimate of the share of your city's population that is over the age of 25 and has a college degree. Do the same using the 2000 Census. Calculate the percentage change in the share of the population that is college educated between 2000 and 2010.

Assignment 7: Go to <http://www.well-beingindex.com/stateCongressDistrictRank.asp>. Find your city (MSA). Report the following scores: (1) Well-Being Index, (2) Life Evaluation, (3) Emotional Health, (4) Physical Health, (5) Healthy Behaviors, (6) Work Environment, (7) Basic Access.

Assignment 8: What power, if any, does the mayor have over the schools in your city?