

Decision-Making in American Cities

POSC 301/401

Case Western Reserve University

Department of Political Science

Winter/Spring 2016

Wednesday 4:30 – 7:00 PM

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Course Description

In any American city, it is apparent that urban life holds the opportunity (for some) of great potential and fully-engaged lives of economic, social, cultural and intellectual fulfillment. Urban life also presents (for many) the seemingly intractable pitfalls of poverty, violence and despair. Great universities (like Case) stand next to urban school districts without the funding or methods to provide basic education. Great corporations, in gleaming office towers, engaged in global trade rise in the midst rampant unemployment and street-level drug trade.

Why do contemporary American cities face these circumstances and the great issues that arise therefrom?

Decision-Making in American Cities will examine that question.

This course of study is an examination of decision-making and governance in the American urban context. Local governments operate in ways that are distinctive from federal and state government. Not recognized in the U.S. Constitution, American cities are the third rung (some might argue, the “third rail”) of federalist governance. Subordinate and dependent upon federal and state decision-making and policy, U.S. cities are also part of the often-incoherent mosaic of other local governmental and non-governmental entities and agencies competing for scarce resources and seeking to meet their expanding needs. Today, issues of land use, education, law enforcement and security, infrastructure and economic growth are more acute, while conflicts and decisions relating to race, profiling and ethnicity persist.

We will examine governance and power in American cities – its historical roots and contemporary forms. As we discuss urban issues of the day – education, finance, economic development and planning – we will analyze the (i) distribution of urban political power (formal and informal), (ii) leadership, (iii) political economy and (iv) national urban policy. Our study will also include comparative considerations with non-U.S. cities.

Required Texts

Judd, Dennis R. & Swanstrom, Todd R., **City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America**, 9th ed. Longman, 2014 (“J&S”).

Kantor, Paul P. & Judd, Dennis R., **American Urban Politics in a Global Age** 7th ed. Longman, 2013 (“K&J”).

Selected Readings listed on Appendix I attached hereto will be available at <http://blackboard.case.edu> . Selected Readings are a requirement of this course.

Also, consider visits to www.governing.com – good source for current urban political and policy issues.

Student Performance and Evaluation

Undergraduate student performance in this course will be based on the following:

- **Class Attendance and Participation** (10%) - Attendance is expected and required. Class time will be used for lectures, discussions and engagement with guest speakers. Class time will include introduction and discussion of material beyond the assigned readings. Students are expected to be prepared for each class meeting by having read, in advance, the materials assigned for each class. All students are expected to participate in class discussion. During the class term, each student will be required to participate in a small group that leads class discussion; there will be advance sign-up for this course requirement.
- **Short Paper** (20%) - There will be two short research papers on topics to be assigned in Week 4 (*Urban Economic Development: Politics of Urban Public Investment*). Details will be provided in handouts. Short papers should be 3-5 pages, double-spaced with 11 or 12 pt. font and one-inch margins and are due two weeks from date of assignment.
- **Mid-Term Examination** (20%) – 60-minute in-class written examination in Week 8 (March 2nd), the Mid-Term will be a short answer and essay examination addressing topics covered in the course of study through Week 7.
- **Film Analysis** (10%) – Following the Midterm Examination, there will be a screening of the film, *Cleveland: Confronting Decline in an American City* (Northern Lights Productions, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2006). Students will be required to provide an analysis and criticism of the substantive issues addressed in the film. This is not intended to be an exercise in filmmaking criticism, although, if time permits, we may have some class discussion on the filmmaking and references to Hollywood’s depiction of cities, slums, mayors and machines. The written analysis should address the following:
 - a. Brief overview of the filmmakers’ message and argument;
 - b. Analysis of issues raised by the filmmakers, utilizing the (i) paradigms and analytics presented in our readings and (ii) your own refinements or views thereon; and
 - c. Alternatives analyses and solutions to the issues raised by the filmmakers.

The analysis should be 2-3 pages, double-spaced with 11 or 12 pt. font and one-inch margins. The film analysis is due two weeks from assignment (March 16th).

- **Take-Home Final Examination** (40%) – The final will be an essay examination that will cover the breadth of the topics covered in the course of study. The “take home” format is intended to emphasize analysis and writing, not recitation of data. The 48-hour examination period will occur May 2nd (9AM) through May 4th (9AM). Additional details with respect to the items above will be provided in class. Prior to the final examination, an optional review session will be scheduled.

Academic Integrity

Students are required to uphold, and to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy of the University, found online at:

<http://students.case.edu/groups/aiboard/policy.html>

Students who do not understand the Policy after having read it should make an appointment to see me to discuss it; indeed, I welcome this discussion and encourage students to see me in advance of any assignment about which they have doubts or questions. It is a course requirement that students read the Academic Integrity Policy.

Ground Rules for the Classroom. The classroom is to be an environment conducive to active engagement and mutual respect for our time and our points of view. Accordingly, please observe the following:

- **Arrive on time and be ready to commence at 4:30 P.M.** If circumstances require a late arrival, provide advance notice. Unexcused absences will affect your Class Participation grade.
- Please turn off all cell phones and mobile electronic devices. Texting or other mobile communications is not permitted during class.
- **No laptop or tablet use is permitted in the classroom.** Multi-tasking is not conducive to fully-engaged discussion and learning.
- Students are expected and obliged to conduct themselves in class in a professional manner. Professionalism refers to adherence to standards of behavior and performance expected from political scientists. This includes, but is not limited to, courteous behavior in class; attention to other speakers; and engagement with the work at hand.

Guest Speakers. Several guest speakers have been invited to share their expertise with our class. Our guests are current and former elected officials and policy experts. As the availability of speakers can change, I will keep the class advised of changes in scheduling.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Week/Date</u>	<u>Topics; Assignments</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Week 1: January 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction and Overview • Approaches to the Study of Urban Politics • Evolution and History of Cities • U.S. Cities in the Federalist System • Cities as Political Systems 	J&S chs.1-2; <i>Selected Reading 1</i>
Week 2: January 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of the Machines: Urban Political Parties • Reform Initiatives • Urban Voters and National Politics 	J&S chs. 3, 4, 5
Week 3: January 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Political Economy and the Future of Urban Fiscal Management • Invited Guest Speaker: <i>Mayor Frank G. Jackson, City of Cleveland</i> 	J&S ch. 12 K&J Ch. 6 <i>Selected Reading 2</i>
Week 4: February 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Economic Development: <i>Politics of the Urban Public Investment</i> • Public Spaces and Privatization • Invited Guest Speaker: <i>Chris Ronayne, President, University Circle, Inc.; Former Chief of Staff, Mayor Jane Campbell</i> • <i>Short Paper #1 Assigned (Due February 16)</i> 	J&S ch. 13; <i>Selected Reading 3</i>
Week 5: February 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Flight and Suburban Sprawl • Ascendancy of Sunbelt Cities • Governing Urban Regions: Fragmentation and Initiatives for Metropolitan Government and Regionalism 	J&S chs. 6, 9, 10, 11 K&J Ch. 7
Week 6: February 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and Public Education • Suburban-Central City Dichotomy 	<i>Selected Readings TBD</i>
Week 7: February 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Urban Policy • From Reagan's Devolution to Today • Redefining Federalism • Invited Guest Speaker: <i>The Honorable Ted Strickland, Former Governor, State of Ohio Candidate, U.S. Senate</i> 	J&S ch. 7; <i>Selected Reading 4</i>

- Week 8:** March 2
- **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
 - City Planning: A Political Analysis; **Film Presentation:** *Cleveland: Confronting Decline in an American City* (Northern Lights Productions, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2006)
 - **Film Analysis Assigned (dues March 16)**
- Selected Readings 5,6,7*

SPRING BREAK: March 9

- Week 9:** March 16
- Race, Poverty and Politics of the New Segregation
 - The Suburbs: *Politics of Space, Race and Ethnicity*
 - Evolving Challenges: *Economic Development, Public Safety and Regional Collaboration*
 - Invited Guest Speakers: *Mayor Earl Leiken*
City of Shaker Heights, Ohio
 - *Mayor Georgine Welo*
City of South Euclid, Ohio
- J&S** ch. 8;
K&J chs . 4, 5

- Week 10:** March 23
- Case Study: Participatory City Planning In Cleveland
 - Effects of Top-down Planning
 - Comparative Perspectives: Seattle and Newark
- Selected Readings 8,9, 10*

- Week 11:** March 30
- Comparative Perspectives: Asia, Europe and Latin America
 - Differing Effects on Infrastructure, Global Competition and Sprawl
- Selected Readings 11, 12,*

- Week 12:** April 6
- Case Study: Responses to Hurricane Katrina and the Political Economy of Disaster Assistance
- K&J** Ch. 8;
Selected Readings 13, 14

- Week 13:** April 13
- Case Study: **Race, Public Safety and Police Legitimacy**
- TBD

- Week 14:** April 20
- Urban Governance in the Global Era
 - Are U.S. Cities Governable?
- J&S** chs. 14, 15

Selected Readings
TBD

APPENDIX I

SELECTED READINGS

1. R.A, Dahl, *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City* (Yale Univ. Press 1974) pp. 1-8.
2. P.Peterson, "Big Cities: Is the Problem Financial?" in *The Price of Federalism* (The Brookings Institution 1995).
3. P. Eisenberger, "The Politics of Bread and Circuses," *Urban Affairs Review*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (2000).
4. P. Peterson, "The Changing Federal System" in *The Price of Federalism* (The Brookings Institution 1995).
5. D. W. Keating and N. Krumholz, "Downtown Plans of the 1980s: The Case for More Equity in the 1990s," *Journal of American Planning Assoc.*, Vol. 57, No. 2 (1991).
6. A. Altschuler, *The City Planning Process: A Political Analysis* (Cornell Univ. Press 1965) pp. 1-13, 354-391.
7. J.E. Innes, "Planning Through Consensus Building: A New View of Comprehensive Planning," *Journal of American Planning Assoc.*, Vol. 57, No. 2 (1991).
8. R. Jaquay, "*Civic Vision: Participatory City Planning in Cleveland*," Kennedy School of Government Case Program (Case C16-91-1060.0), Harvard University 1991, pp. 1-17 (read carefully), scan remainder.

9. "Citizen Participation" in *Urban Society*, 14th ed., Myron A. Levine, ed. (McGraw Hill 2010).
10. N. Krumholz, "A Retrospective View of Equity Planning," *Journal of the American Planning Assoc.* Vol. 48 (1982).
11. T. Saich, "The Changing Role of Urban Government," *China Urbanizes*, S. Yuisuf and T. Saich, eds. (World Bank 2008).
12. "The Future of Cities and Suburbs: The United States and the World" in *Urban Society*, 14th ed., Myron A. Levine, ed. (McGraw Hill 2010)..
13. C. Kirkham and P. Purpura, "Bridge Blockage After Katrina Remains Divisive Issue," *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, September 1, 2007.
14. P. Drier, "Katrina and Power in America," *Urban Affairs Review*, Vol. 41, No. 4 (2006).