Urban Politics!
Political Science 200

Spring 2008
M/W/F 9:00-9:50
Office: 302 Buckman
Office Phone: 901/843-3738

Professor Arielle Goldberg
Email: goldberga@rhodes.edu
Office Hours: M/W: 1:30-2:30

Course Description

This course poses the normative questions: “Who should make decisions about urban politics?”; “To what extent should the public be involved in setting the agenda for urban decision making?” and; “What responsibilities and goals should urban governments take on?” We also consider how larger political and economic forces shape the parameters of urban politics. The course is divided into four sections that shed light on these questions. The first section of the course is designed to give students a foundation in the evolution of cities including their role in the federal system. The second section examines the institutional arrangements that shape decision-making in U.S. cities and Memphis, in particular. In the third section, we consider the competing theoretical models that explain how decision making actually works in U.S. cities. The final section of the course analyzes Memphis politics, particularly the politics of race and reform, through the lens of the campaigns and elections of Memphis Mayor W.W. Herenton. The goal is to understand how political alliances, “ideas,” institutional arrangements and larger historical forces facilitate and constrain decision making in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Course Objectives

As an introductory urban politics class, this course should help you learn:

• Fundamental concepts and theories that help explain the evolution of cities and their place in the metropolitan and intergovernmental environment.
• Factual knowledge about urban governance, particularly in Memphis.
• How the course materials (e.g. the facts and theories) apply to real world events
• To analyze and critically evaluate major debates and issues in urban politics

Required Readings

• Paul Kantor and Dennis Judd, American Urban Politics in a Global Age: The Reader, 5th Ed.
• Dennis Judd and Todd Swanstrom, City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America, 6th Ed.
• Marcus Pohlmann and Michael Kirby, Racial Politics at the Crossroads

• ACAD Readings:
  Many of the readings will be marked (ACAD). These readings are in the Goldberg/Public folder at the Academic Departments Program. To get to ACAD_Dept_Pgm you can select Start, Run and enter \fileserver1\Acad_Department_Pgm in the Run window. You will need to get here often, so, create a
shortcut (With the Acad_Dept_Pgm volume window open, drag the folder icon in the Address bar to your desktop. It will automatically create a shortcut on your desktop.).

To access a reading:
Go to Acad_Dept_Pgm
Open: Poli_Sci
Open: Goldberg_Arielle
Open: Public
Open: POLS 200

Requirements:
Regular Attendance/Active Class Participation (15%): Students are expected to attend class, be on time, and be prepared to discuss the readings. Note that participation is a function not only of attendance, but also the quality of contributions. Even on days that I do not take formal attendance, I do take note of who attends and who does not, as well as who is participating and who is not. Please come prepared with comments/questions that you wish to discuss in class.

Questions: 20%
Each student must turn in a total of 10 one-page analytic responses to the readings. Each submission should address the reading for a particular day, i.e. do not turn in two submissions for one day. Your submissions must be posted on Moodle by 8:00 a.m. on the day we will discuss the reading(s). They should be single-spaced, and approximately one page. Your submission should indicate that you have read and reflected upon the assigned readings. It should NOT be a summary.

Midterm Exam (25%)
The Midterm exam will include short answer and essay questions.

Quiz (10%)

Group Research Project (30% see breakdown below)
Each student will be assigned to a group that will complete a research project on some aspect of Memphis or Shelby County politics/government. Each group’s project will require members to complete archival document analysis and attend public meetings.

- Final Presentation of Group Project (10%): Each group will make a 20 minute presentation that shall include a project overview, key findings and conclusions.
- Individual Papers for Group Project (20%): Each student must write his/her own paper on some aspect of the group project.

Examples of Possible Final Project Topics:
- Some aspect of City or County Charter Reform Debate, e.g. run-off elections, city-county consolidation
- City Council Committee Projects
- The Mayor’s policy objectives, e.g. Liberty bowl project
- Public policy-crime prevention, community development projects
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>93-100 = A</th>
<th>90-92 = A-</th>
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<td>88-89 = B+</td>
<td>83-87 = B</td>
<td>80-82 = B-</td>
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<td>78-79 = C+</td>
<td>73-77 = C</td>
<td>70-72 = C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>68-69 = D+</td>
<td>60-67 = D</td>
<td>0-59 = F</td>
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**Special Circumstances:**
If you have any kind of special circumstances, such as a disability or illness, or if you are involved with a college activity that requires you to miss class, let me know as soon as possible. This information is confidential. All students attending Rhodes College with documented disabilities are eligible and encouraged to apply for services with the Office of Student Disability Services (http://www.rhodes.edu/disability). For more information, please contact Melissa Butler McCowen at 843-3994. Please provide me with a copy of the accommodation granted by the Office as early as possible.

Rhodes also has a variety of academic support services including:

- Peer tutors
- A Writing Center (315 Palmer Hall and on line at: http://www.rhodes.edu/writingcenter)
- Workshops in study skills assistance (contact the Office of Student Academic Support at 843-3433 for more information)

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of these services, and to take advantage of each other as study partners for this course. If you find yourself desiring or needing any of these forms of academic support, contact me at any time and I will do what I can to help.

**Academic Dishonesty:**
Quite simply, any type of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. You are responsible for knowing the Rhodes College Honor Code, and its rules and regulations concerning these matters. Please read them carefully in the Rhodes College Honor Council Constitution at: http://www.rhodes.edu/Rhodes/CampusCommunity/PoliciesandProcedures/Student-Handbook.cfm. In any case, ignorance of the law is not an excuse. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be referred immediately to the Honor Council.

**Other Classroom Rules**
1. Turn cell phones off before you come to class.

2. Please be on time for class and stay until class is over, except in the case of an emergency.

3. Other than mathematical errors or clarifying questions, if you have questions about your performance on an assignment, address these to me privately, not in class.

4. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. I do not accept e-mailed papers, except under special circumstances (You must get permission from me in advance). **Late final papers are penalized one letter grade per day.** Be aware that delays due to traffic, parking difficulty, or computer or printer problems are to be anticipated and are not considered a valid excuse for late papers. I will NOT accept late Moodle submissions.
Course Outline

Week 1
January 9: Introduction and Review of the syllabus

PART I: THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES

January 11: Early Development of American Cities
- Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 2: Growth and Governance
- Pohlmann & Kirby, Chapter 1, pgs 3-14

Week 2
January 14: Machine Politics
- Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 3: “Party Machines and the Immigrants”

January 16: Machine Politics (Continued)
- Pohlmann & Kirby, Chapter 1, pgs 14-30

January 18: Reform Politics
- Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 4: “The Reform Crusades”
- Memphis Charter Reform Recommendations

Week 3
January 21: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY-NO CLASS

January 23: Reform Politics (Continued)
- Andrew White, “City Affairs Are Not Political” (ACAD)
- Samuel Hayes, “The Politics of Reform in Municipal Government in the Progressive Era” (ACAD)
- Wrenn, “The Memphis Plan of Structural Reform” (ACAD)
January 25: Federalism and the Cities
• Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 5, “A New Era Opens: Race, Ethnicity, and National Politics”
• Southern cities and federalism (ACAD)

Week 4
January 28: Cities and Suburbs
• Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 6, “National Policy and the City/Suburban Divide”
• Sugrue, Chapter 4 # 11, “Racial Confrontation in Post-War Detroit” (J & K)

January 30: Federal Urban Policy
• Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 7, Urban Policy and the Politics of Race”
• Stehr, Chapter 8, #28, “The Political Economy of Disaster Assistance” (J & K)

February 1: Sculpting Utopia: The Suburbs
• Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 10, “Enclave Politics: The Suburbs”
• New Orleans exclusionary zoning and housing discrimination articles (ACAD)

Week 5:
February 4: Sunbelt Cities
• Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 8, “The Rise of the Sunbelt”

February 6: Rethinking Urban and Suburban: The Role of Immigrants
• Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 9, “The Politics of Race and Ethnicity: The Cities”
• Baxandall & Ewen, Chapter 5, #15, “New Immigrants in Suburbia” (J & K)

February 8: Cities in a Global Age
• Sassen, “The Impact of New Technologies & Globalization on Cities” (ACAD)
• Rushing, “Globalization and the Paradoxes of Place: Poverty and Power in Memphis” (ACAD)
PART II: URBAN GOVERNANCE

Week 6:
February 11: The Intergovernmental Environment
- Michael Rich, “The Intergovernmental Environment” (ACAD)
- Nivola, Chapter 8, #27, “Federal Prescriptions and City Problems” (J & K)

February 13: The Metropolitan Context
- E. Terrence Jones, Chapters 1 & 2, The Metropolitan Chase (ACAD)

February 15: The Mayor
- TBD

Week 7:
February 18: The City Council
- Krebs and Pelissero, “City Councils” (ACAD)

February 20: Political Participation
- Sharp, “Political Participation in Cities” (ACAD)
- Field Trip?

February 22: MIDTERM (I’m away at a conference)

Week 8:
February 25: Budgeting and City Finances
- Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 12, “City Finances and the Dynamics of Growth”

February 27: The Bureaucracy
- Ross & Levine: Urban Bureaucracy and Service Delivery (ACAD)
- MLGW-Commercial Appeal articles (ACAD)
- Memphis Charter: http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/codes/memphis/
  Go to: Part II: Home Rule Amendments; Read ORDINANCE NO. 3054 [LIGHT, GAS AND WATER DIVISION AMENDMENTS*]
February 29: Public Authorities
- Annmarie Walsh, “Public Authorities & the Shape of Decision Making,” (ACAD)
- http://www.memphisriverfront.com/
- http://www.friendsforourriverfront.org/

Week 9
March 3-7 SPRING BREAK-NO CLASS

PART III: THEORIES OF URBAN POLITICS

Week 10
March 10: The Political Economy of Cities
- Peterson, Chapter 1 #1, “The Interests of the Limited City” (J & K)

March 12: Coalitions: Interests and Ideas
- Stone, “Urban Regimes” (J & K)

March 14: Bargaining
- Paul Kantor and H.V. Savitch, “Can Politicians Bargain with Business?” (J & K)
- Good Jobs First, Community Benefit Agreements” (ACAD)

Week 11
March 17: The Political Economy of Urban Culture
- Florida, “The Power of Place: The Creative Class” (J & K)
- Strom, “Culture, Art, and Downtown Development” (J & K)

March 19:
- Sharp, “Culture Wars and City Politics” (ACAD)
- Giuliani & The Sensation Exhibit (ACAD)

March 21: EASTER BREAK-NO CLASS
Week 12
March 24: Political Incorporation and Coalitions
- Browning, Marshall, Tabb, “Biracial Coalitions” (ACAD)
- Rogers, Chapter 4, #12, “Minority Groups and Coalitional Politics” (J & K)

March 26: New York’s Reform Mayor
- 1873.0 Linda Gibbs and the Department of Homeless Services: Overhauling New York City’s Approach to Shelter (Kennedy Case)

March 28: QUIZ

PART IV: URBAN POLITICS, MEMPHIS POLITICS, AND BEYOND

Week 13
March 31: Memphis Politics
- Pohlmann & Kirby, Chapter 3, “Black Politics”

April 2:
- Pohlmann & Kirby, Chapter 4, “Dr. W.W. Herenton”
- Pohlmann & Kirby, Chapters 6, “The Hacket Campaign”

April 4: The Electoral Context
- Pohlmann & Kirby, Chapter 5, “The Electoral Context”

Week 14
April 7: The Mayoral Campaigns: Then and Now
- Pohlmann & Kirby, Chapter 7, “The Herenton Campaign”

- Pohlmann & Kirby, Chapter 8
April 11: The 2007 Mayoral Election
   • TBD

Week 15 Policy Approaches? Community and Economic Development? Housing?
April 14: The Black Urban Regime: Old and New
   • Reed, “The Black Urban Regime” (ACAD)
   • Cose, Ellis. "What the Revolution Was For" (ACAD)
   • Greenblatt, Alan "A need for magic" (ACAD)
   • Clips from Street Fight (Film)

April 16: Community Organizing and the Nonregime?
   • Burns & Thomas, “Community Organizing in a Nonregime City: The New Orleans Experience” (ACAD)
   • 1862.0 Plans versus Politics: New Orleans after Katrina (Kennedy Case)

April 18: Regionalism
   • Judd & Swanstrom, Chapter 11, “Governing the Sprawled Metropolis”
   • Orfield, Chapter 7 #22, “Building Consensus”

Week 16
April 21: Presentations

April 23: Presentations

April 25: CONFERENCE-NO CLASS