

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3313**  
**URBAN GOVERNMENT and POLITICS—SPRING 2006**

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 3-5 PM and by appointment.

**General:** In this course, we will examine differing theories as to how urban governance, administration, and politics actually operate. Included in this examination are a variety of major issues related to urban governance and administration including intergovernmental relations, urban service delivery, fragmentation of urban areas between cities and suburbs, the rise of sunbelt cities, urban sprawl, racism, poverty, crime, and national urban policy. We will also examine broader visions and proposals to revitalize and enhance urban living. Finally, we will consider the current state of urban politics and where it might go in the future.

**Objectives:**

1. To provide an overview and understanding of urban political structures, politics, and policy making in modern American cities.
2. To provide an overview of contemporary proposals to enhance the quality of living in urban areas.
3. To assess modern and contemporary theories of urban politics.
4. To allow students the opportunity to analyze urban policy making issues for a wide variety of urban issues.
5. To enhance research skills, including the design, information collecting, and analysis of written research reports.

**Required Readings**

Hall, Peter, 2002. *Cities of Tomorrow, Third Edition*. Blackwell Publishers: Malden, Massachusetts.

Judd, Dennis and Todd Swanstrom, 2002. *City Politics: Private Power and Public Policy, Third Edition*. New York: Longman.

Materials on paper and electronic reserve at Bizzell library.

**Course Content:**

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|---------|----|---|
| January | 18 | Introduction to Course. What is a City? Forms of Municipal Government.<br><br>Read: Chapters 2 and 6, Herson and Bolland. (On electronic and paper reserve) |
| January | 25 | Municipal Finance and Services and Intergovernmental Grants and Relations.<br><br>Read: Chapter 12, Judd and Swanstrom                                      |

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|----------|----|--|
| February | 1  | Theories of Urban Politics.<br><br>Read: Chapter 1, Judd and Swanstrom; and Stone: “Urban Regimes: A Research Perspective” (On paper and electronic reserve)<br><br>Written analysis of Martin article due this day.                         |
| February | 8  | Issues and Theories in Urban Planning.<br><br>Read: Chapters 1-7, Hall<br><br>Movie: “The City”  |
| February | 15 | Issues and Theories in Urban Planning Continued.<br><br>Read: Chapters 8-19 and 11-12, Hall.   |
| February | 22 | Private City and Local Democracy: Political Legacy of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century<br><br>Read: Chapter 2, Judd and Swanstrom<br><br>Mid-Term Exam—Will cover all lectures and assigned material from January 18, 2005 to February 15, 2005. |
| March    | 1  | Urban Political Machines and Reform Movements<br><br>Read: Chapters 3-4, Judd and Swanstrom<br><br>Movie: “Daley: The Last Boss”   |
| March    | 8  | New Deal Impact on Cities.<br><br>Read Chapter 5, Judd and Swanstrom   |
| March    | 22 | Central Cities, Suburbs, and Sunbelt Cities.<br><br>Read: Chapters 9-10, Judd and Swanstrom<br><br>Movie: “Democratic Promise: Saul Alinsky and His Legacy”  |
| March    | 29 | National Urban Policy and the Divided Metropolis.<br><br>Read: Chapters 7 and 11, Judd and Swanstrom<br><br>Movie; “Store Wars: When WalMart Come to Town”   |
| April    | 5  | Challenge of Urban Governance. Conclusion<br><br>Read: Chapters 13-15, Judd and Swanstrom.   |

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| April | 12 | Verbal presentations and outlines due.  |
| April | 19 | Verbal presentations and outlines due.  |
| April | 26 | Verbal presentations and outlines due.<br>Final papers are also due this day. |
| May   | 3  | Final Exam  |

**Grading Policies:**

Grades:

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Research Paper:      | 40%         |
| Verbal Presentation: | 20%         |
| Outline:             | 5%          |
| Written Analysis     | 5%          |
| Mid Term Exam        | 10%         |
| Final Exam           | 20%         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>100%</b> |

Each point that you receive equals one percentage point of your grade. You can receive a maximum total of 100 points, which would equal 100%, or a perfect score. I will be using the traditional 100-90 (A); 89-80 (B); 79-70 (C); 69-60 (D); and 59 and below (F) grading method.

Research Paper: Students will select an urban policy and government issue or theory and write an academic style paper.

All papers should be typewritten and double-spaced in 11 or 12-point font with one-inch margins. The paper should to ten pages or more in length. You should also utilize the American Psychological Association (APA) or Chicago Manual of Style or MLA formats in relation to style and format for such items as footnotes, bibliography, and so on. I will also take off some points for consistently improper grammar or spelling.

These papers should generally follow the following format (the development of a detailed outline before you write the paper is very helpful in doing this):

1. Give a brief introductory statement on your academic topic;
2. In the body of the paper, describe and explain in an internally consistent and logical fashion what your topic is. Be sure to provide an overview of the major themes and concepts related to your topic;
3. Offer examples and provide tables, graphs, and footnotes and endnotes (when appropriate) to bolster your discussion. All material that is quoted or not original should have an appropriate footnote or endnote;
4. If appropriate, provide and discuss contrasting and differing themes and concepts to the general themes and concepts included in your paper; and

5. Provide a conclusion to your discussion. This conclusion should succinctly summarize the main themes of your paper.

Verbal Presentation: This is a 12 minute summary presented to the class on a urban policy topic entirely different than the topic covered in your Research Paper. In the grading of this presentation, I will be looking for clarity of presentation, accuracy of information provided, logical flow, and the adequacy of the conclusions given.

Outline: In *conjunction* with your Verbal Presentation, you will provide a written detailed and logically designed outline of your Verbal Presentation that includes a full bibliography of the sources used for the Verbal Presentation.

Written Analysis: This paper should be no more than five pages and should be typewritten and double-spaced in 11 or 12-point font with one-inch margins. You should also utilize the American Psychological Association (APA) or Chicago Manual of Style or MLA formats in relation to style and format for such items as footnotes, bibliography, and so on. I will also take off some points for consistently improper grammar or spelling.

For this paper, please provide the following analysis of the Martin article available on paper and electronic reserve entitled: "Local Progressivism and the Living Wage." Provide a short overview of the key points of the article. Then provide an analysis of how living wage campaigns are connected to intergovernmental relations as was discussed in class and in your readings.

Mid Term Exam: This is a closed book essay style examination that will cover course concepts for the first half of the course as indicated in the Course Content section of this syllabus. In this exam, you will be responsible for all materials covered in reading assignments and class lectures.

Final Exam: This is a closed book essay style examination that will cover the entire course. In this exam, you will be responsible for all materials covered in reading assignments and class lectures.

**Attendance and Tardiness:** All students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time.

**Assignments and Tests:** All assignments must be submitted on time in order to complete the course successfully. If you turn an assignment in after the date that it is due, and you do not have a valid reason for its late submittal, proportional points in relation to how late it is submitted will be deducted from the assignment. There are no extra credit assignments in this course. Make-up exams may be scheduled upon good cause reasons given by the student and approved by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. If there is not a good cause for an exam not being taken at its scheduled time, that exam cannot be made-up at a later date. All students are expected to complete the required reading assignments before the class period that the reading assignment is assigned.

**Accommodation for Students With Disabilities:** Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent her or him from fully demonstrating her or his abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Religious Observance:** It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

**Electronic Devices:** All audible electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones and beepers, must remain off at all times while the class is in session.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** Any student who willfully violates the cheating and plagiarism policy may be subject to disciplinary proceedings within the scope of university due process grievance and hearing rights.