

Urban Politics
Political Science 401A
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Summer II 2007
[TENTATIVE DRAFT - DATES MAY CHANGE]

Professor: Dr. Kenneth E. Fernandez
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Office: Department of Political Science; Wright Hall B209
Office Hours: T TH 5:00 -6:30 p.m., or by appointment.
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Class Meets: T W TH 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., CBC C237. June 5 - July 5

Course Description:

In this class we will discuss the structure and workings of urban and local society and politics. In an age where public attention tends to be focused on national and international levels of politics, our task is to highlight the importance of local and urban institutions and processes on our life and relationships. A variety of issues that are a consequence of local political processes are examined, including the distribution of power and influence, the representation of citizen and group preferences, the conflict between the public interest and private rights, and the distribution of public and private resources. We will also cover topics such as the evolution of local government institutions, local economic development and growth, cultural and ethnic conflict, and regional/metropolitan governance. In addition, we will explore how we as citizens perceive urban life and politics as well as how the media (the news, film, television) and academic thinkers depict how urban life is and/or how it should be.

Required Readings:

1. Judd, Dennis and Paul Kantor, eds. 2006. *American Urban Politics: A Reader*, 4th edition. New York: Longman.
2. Ross, Bernard H., and Myron A. Levine. 2006. *Urban Politics: Power in Metropolitan America*, 7th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
3. In addition, five (5) articles are available on **WebCT**: <https://webcampus.nevada.edu/>ⁱ

A copy of each book has been placed on 2 hour reserve at the Lied Library

Quizzes: Six (6) pop quizzes will be given during the course which will count for 20% of your overall course grade (your two lowest quiz score will be dropped – only 4 will be used to calculate your grade). Warning: There are no make-ups for missed pop quizzes.

ⁱ For information on logging on to WebCampus see <http://www.unlv.edu/faculty/kfernandez/logon.htm>

Examinations: There will be a midterm and a final exam. They will be based on the assigned readings and lectures. Late exams are not accepted except for emergency situations and the reason must be documented (police report for an accident, doctor's letter for a serious illness on official letterhead). In regard to the observance of a religious holiday, University policy states that students must notify the instructor about anticipated absences by the last day of late registration to be assured the opportunity to make up missed work. Late exams will be marked down a full grade for every day (24 hour period) late. A typed hard copy as well as an electronic copy (via email) of the exam will be required.

Disability Policy: The UNLV Disability Resource Center (DRC) houses the resources for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137. Their numbers are: (702-895-0866/Voice; 702-895-0652/TDD. For additional information please visit <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife/drc>.

Participation: Attendance and participation is especially important in a class that meets only 14 times. 10% of your grade will be based on your participation. If you are habitually late, participation portion of your course grade will be marked down substantially.

Grades:

COMPONENT	DATE	COURSE VALUE
Midterm (take home)	Tuesday, June 19/Hard copy due beginning of class Wed. June 20 ⁱⁱ	25%
Participation	N/A	10%
6 Pop Quizzes (drop lowest 2 score)	N/A	20%
Film Analysis (of 2 movies)	Beginning of class June 14 th and June 28 th	20%
Final Exam (take home)	Tuesday July 3/ Hard copy due beginning of class July 5 th ⁱⁱⁱ	25%

The assignment of letter grades is as follows:

92 < = A	80-81 = B-	67-69 = D+
90-91 = A-	77-79 = C+	62-66 = D
87-89 = B+	72-76 = C	60-61 = D-
82-86 = B	70-71 = C-	> 59 = F

* Rounding at .5

ⁱⁱ Papers will be considered late if received after 7:05pm.

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Class Schedule

Week 1:	Topic	Readings
June 5	All Politics is Local: The Urban Community	
June 6	<i>Metropolis vs. Bladerunner</i>	Mumford*; Bickford*; Yanarella*
June 7	Images of the City: Theory & Urban Politics	Warner; Davis; Ross & Levine ch.1&2
Week 2:	Topic	Readings
June 12	The Political Machine	Riordan; Ross & Levine ch. 6;
June 13	<i>Miller's Crossing/City of Hope</i>	Erie
June 14	The Reform Movement and Beyond	White; Ross & Levine ch. 7; Hays
Week 3:	Topic	Readings
June 19	Who Governs?: Legislature, Executive, Bureaucracy, Business and Citizens	Ross & Levine ch. 4, 5 Stone; Martin
June 20	<i>Do the Right Thing</i>	Sugrue; Rogers
June 21	Race, Gender and Class: <i>Crash</i>	Titus & Wright; Baxandall & Ewen; Ross and Levine Ch. 10
Week 4:	Topic	Readings
June 26	Economic Development	Peterson; Wade; Fogelson; Gazel*
June 27	<i>Roger and Me</i>	Kantor & Savitch
June 28	The Tourist City	Foglesong; Parker*; Newman; Siegfried & Zimbalist
Week 5	Topic	Readings
July 3	Local Autonomy vs. Regional Government	Seigal; Orfield; Hayden (2); Ross & Levine ch. 12 & 13
July 4	HOLIDAY	
July 5	Suburbia v. the City: <i>American Beauty</i>	Ross & Levine ch. 11; Danielson; Hayden

* article is available on [WebCT](#)

Reading List

Baxandall and Ewen - *Suburban Change and the "Underwater Economy"* by Rosalyn Baxandall and Elizabeth Ewen in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #16**

Bickford – “Constructing Inequality: City Spaces and the Architecture of Citizenship” by Susan Bickford. *Political Theory*, 28, 2000: 355-76. [WebCT](#)

Danielson – *Suburban Autonomy* by Michael N. Danielson in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #12**

Davis - *Fortress Los Angeles: The Militarization of Urban Space* by Mike Davis in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #20**

Erie - *Big-City Rainbow Politics: Machines Revivodus?* By Steven P. Erie in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #7**

Eisenger – *City Politics in an Era of Federal Devolution* by Peter Eisinger in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #23**

Fogelson - *Downtown in Mid Twentieth Century* by Robert M. Fogelson in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #10**

Foglesong - *When Disney Comes to Town* by Richard Foglesong in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #17**

Gazel – "The Economic Impacts of Casino Gambling at the State and Local Levels," by Ricardo Gazel in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 556, Gambling: Socioeconomic Impacts and Public Policy (Mar., 1998), pp. 66-84. [WebCT](#)

Hayden - *Planning Suburban Development* by Dolores Hayden in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #13**

Hayden (2) - *The New Urbanism* by Dolores Hayden in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #28**

Hays - *The Politics of Reform* by Samuel P. Hays in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #9**

Judd & Kantor - *Evolution of Urban Politics in America* by Dennis Judd & Paul Kantor in **American Urban Politics: The Reader – Introductory Essay p.1-12**

Kantor & Savitch, *Can Politicians Bargain with Business* by Paul Kantor and H.V. Savitch in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #19**

Maher - *The Landscape of Suburban Fear* by Kristen Hill Maher in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #21**

Martin - *Local Progressivism* by Isaac Martin in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #25**

Mumford - "Utopia: The City and the Machine" by Lewis Mumford (*Daedalus*, 94 [1965]: 271-292). [WebCT](#)

Newman - *Race and the Tourist Bubble* by Harvey K. Newman in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #15**

Nivola - *Federal Prescriptions and City Problems* by Pietro S. Nivola in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #24**

Orfield – *Conflict or Consensus: Forty Years of Minnesota Metropolitan Politics* by Myron Orfield in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #26**

Parker - "Las Vegas: Casino Gambling and Local Culture" by Robert E. Parker from the Tourist City, edited by Dennis Judd and Susan Fainstein. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1999. [WebCT](#)

Peterson - *The Interests of the Limited City* by Paul E. Peterson in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #1**

Riordan - *To Hold Your District: Study Human Nature* by William Riordan in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #6**

Rogers - *Minority Groups and Coalitional Politics* by Reuel Rogers in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #14**

Ross & Levine - *Urban Politics: Power in Metropolitan America* by Bernard H. Ross and Myron A. Levine **[Book]**

Sharp - *Cultures Wars & City Politics* by Elaine Sharp in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #3**

Siegal – *Is Regional Government the Answer* by Fred Siegal in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #27**

Siegfried & Zimbalist – "The Economics of Sports Facilities and their Communities." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 14,no. 3, 2000: 95-114. [WebCT](#)

Stone - *Urban Regimes: A Research Perspective* by Clarence N. Stone in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #2**

Sugrue - *Racial Confrontation in Post-War Detroit* by Thomas Sugrue in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #11**

Wade - *Urban Frontier* by Richard C. Wade in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #5**

Warner – *The Environment of Private Opportunity* by Sam Bass Warner, Jr. in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #4**

White – *City Affairs are Not Political* by Andrew White in **American Urban Politics: The Reader #8**

Yanarella – "Chapter 5: The Telos of the City in Social Science and American History," in The Cross, the Plow and the Skyline: Contemporary Science Fiction and the Ecological Imagination by Ernest J. Yanarella. Parkland, FL: Brown Walker Press, 2001. [WebCT](#)