

Urban Politics
Political Science 102 E/ Urban Politics 107

Instructor Nazita Lajevardi

Fall 2016

Office: Social Sciences Building 104
Final Paper: Thursday, December 8, by 11 am

Office Hours: Tues. 12-1 pm, Wed. 8-10 am
Final Exam Submission: TurnItIn on TED

Classroom: Social Sciences Building 102
Email: nlajevan@ucsd.edu

Class time: Tuesdays 9 - 11:50 am
Course Website: TED Page

Course Description and Goals

This course will teach students about the challenges and issues confronting American cities. It offers an in-depth exploration of key topics, such as urban power structure, machine and reform politics, suburbanization, minority politics, and urban regions and the global economy.

The course will also focus heavily on writing. The ability to research, argue, and write persuasively and effectively is a skill that many lack. In this course, I want to teach you how to write persuasively and work in teams. At the end of the day, I want to equip you with a writing sample that you can use for future employment, grad school, etc. I am making a promise to give you hands-on training, but in return expect a heightened level of professionalism and dedication.

By the end of this class, you should have an improved understanding of the place of local government in American politics, and will have learned to approach major questions about cities and their role from a social-science perspective.

Breakdown of the Course Grade

Midterm	20%
Reading Response Paper 1:	15%
Reading Response Paper 2:	15%
Final Research Paper:	30%
Final Presentation:	10%
Participation/Attendance:	10%
Extra Credit Opportunity:	1%

Reading Response Papers

Twice during the semester, you will be required to write a short (3-4 pages, doubled spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman, 1-inch margins) paper critically evaluating the day's readings. Your paper should:

(1) introduce the topic and relevance of the readings, (2) briefly summarize each of the readings, (3) highlight the most interesting and important points arising from the readings and (4) should offer 3-4 discussion questions for the class. These papers must be analytical (not just summaries). They should scrutinize and critique the logic of the readings. You can choose any of the topics from the course, but **MUST** sign up for the appropriate date during Week 1.

Final Research Paper

As part of this course, you are required to write a final research paper with another student(s). This paper will serve as an in-depth case study and will trace the evolution of one America's big cities. During Week 3, you will be assigned your teammate(s) and a U.S. city that will serve as your quarter's "case study city."

Your final research paper prompt will be given to you Week 3. On that day, you will be given detailed guidelines on the requirements of the paper. The final paper will be 25-30 pages long. You and your teammate(s) will receive the same grade for the paper.

Beginning Week 3 onwards, the last hour of class will be dedicated to quick assignments that I will assign to the class, so that you and your teammate(s) can work on your case study. These quick assignments will help you prepare to write your final research paper.

By the end of the class, you should have an improved understanding of the place of local government in American politics, and will have learned to approach major questions about cities and their role from a social-science perspective.

The paper will be due through TurnItIn on our course website on Thursday, December 8 at 11 am. No late papers will be accepted. The paper must be double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 pt Times New Roman font. I am more than happy to meet with groups at office hours or by appointment and to review written work through email until the Friday *before* Finals Week.

At the end of the day, I want to equip you with a writing sample that you can use for future employment, grad school, etc. I am making a promise to give you hands-on training, but in return, I expect a heightened level of professionalism and dedication.

Final Presentation

During Week 10, each group will give a 15 minute presentation on their case study city. The presentation must touch on each of the criteria you are writing about for your Final Paper.

Teamwork

Weeks 4-10 of the course require you to work with 1-2 of your peers, who will be randomly assigned to your team. The expectations are an equitable distribution of work and effort. The end of course grade will include peer evaluations of your contribution to both the written group assignments and your final presentations. I will be requiring you to meet as a group for the last hour of the course each week, so attendance is *important*.

Student Participation

Students must participate in class. This requires you to come to class prepared. Teamwork and writing are important components to this class. If this seems burdensome to you, I recommend you enroll in another course.

Extra Credit Opportunity

I will be giving an extra credit opportunity for 1% of the entire final course grade. You can do one of the two options to receive the extra credit bump:

1. Take the UCSD Political Science Omnibus Survey (link TBD)
- OR
2. Discuss a recent urban planning issue in San Diego in a 2-3 page memo.

Course Format and Requirements

Beginning Week 3 onward, our course will be divided into 2 hours of lecture and discussion and 1 hour of group work. Week 10 will consist of Final Presentations. Final papers are due to TurnItIn by 11 am Thursday, December 8, 2016.

The course is geared towards improving your writing skills. I require the following of you:

- (1) Prepare for every class by *reading* and digesting the assigned material.
- (2) *Actively* participate in class discussions.
- (3) Work in teams (your final grade depends, in part, on your peers' evaluation of you).
- (4) Write a final paper with your teammate(s) (due during finals week).
- (5) With your teammate(s), make a presentation in front of your peers Week 10.
- (6) Attend every class, with the exception of a pre-arranged conflict, which you need to clear in writing with me.
- (7) Turn in your Reading Response Papers at the beginning of class on the due date.

Required Readings

There is one required textbook for this class. I recommend you buy it ahead of time from Amazon or any other online vendors, to get a competitive price. It is called:

Urban Politics: A Reader by Stephen J. McGovern

ISBN: 978-1-5063-1119-7

Additional readings will be available as PDFs on TED course website.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. You must write your own papers. Any student caught cheating and plagiarizing will receive a failing grade in the class and will be referred to the administration for disciplinary actions. Keep in mind that TurnItIn allows me to see the plagiarism rate and source of any paper. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, please talk to me in person

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction to Urban Politics – Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 2

Required Reading: “What is a City?” In *The City Reader* on TED. Pp. 91-96

-Hr 1: Introduction to Course

-Hr 2: Introduction To Urban Politics: What are cities for and what powers do they have? An

-Hr 3: Politics in the Preindustrial city

-End of class: Sign up for Response Papers

Week 2: The Historical Evolution of Cities: Machines – Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 3.

Required Reading: Steve Erie. “Rainbow’s End.” Pp. 236-246 on TED.

Required Reading: Jessica Trounstine. “Political Monopolies in American Cities.” Intro and Ch 1 on TED.

-Hr 1-3: Lecture on the Machine, the latent functions of the Machine, and the paradox of corrupt yet effective leadership.

Week 3: The Historical Evolution of Cities: Reform – Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 4

Required Reading: “In Houston, a nonpartisan race is anything but.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2001/11/30/us/in-houston-a-nonpartisan-race-is-anything-but.html?_r=0.

Required Reading: “A model city in nonpartisan correctness.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/21/nyregion/a-model-city-in-nonpartisan-correctness.html>.

-Hr 1: Lecture on Reform Politics

-Hr 2: Lecture on the Legacy of Reform Politics

-Hr 3: Assignment into groups and cities for Final Paper.

Week 4: Power Structures and Regime Politics – Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 11

Required Reading: Clarence Stone. “Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta.” Chapter 1. On TED

-Hr 1: Lecture on Regime Politics

-Hr 2: Discussion work on “Who Governs Silicon Valley?”

-Hr 3: Group Work

Week 5: MIDTERM and Exploration of Social Explorer – Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Required Reading: None

-Hr 1: MIDTERM.

-Hr 2: First half: Midterm. Second half: tutorial from Annelise Sklar on Social Explorer

-Hr 3: Group Work: implementation of Social Explorer for your case study city.

Week 6: Suburbanization: Are suburbs and cities in conflict? – Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 6

Required Reading: Lorrie Frasure-Yokley. “Racial and Ethnic Politics in American Cities.” Pp 1-72 on TED

-Hr 1: Lecture on Suburbanization

-Hr 2: Lecture on Frasure-Yokley’s book.

-Hr 3: Groupwork.

Week 7: Minority Politics: Race, Protest, and Backlash– November 8, 2016

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 7

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 12

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 13 pp. 477-491.

-Hr 1: Lecture on Race, Protest, and Backlash

-Hr 2: Lecture on Minority Politics in Cities

-Hr 3: Groupwork

Week 8: Immigration and Urban Cities in Crisis – Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 13 (Pp. 459-477)

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 8

-Hr 1: Listen to Harold: <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/84/harold>.

-Hr 3: Lecture on Immigration and Urban Cities in Crisis

-Hr 3: Groupwork

Week 9: Contemporary Approaches to Urban Governance – Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Required Reading: McGovern Chapter 14

Required Reading: Erie. “Globalizing LA.” Pp TBD. Available on TED.

-Hr 1-2: Lecture on globalization and the shaping of cities.

-Hr 3: Groupwork.

Week 10: In Class Final Presentations – Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Required Reading: *None*