URBAN POLITICS

COURSE OUTLINE
“This survey course focuses upon the following six topics: the evolution of urban politics since the mid-nineteenth century; the urban fiscal crisis; federal/urban relationships; the ‘new’ ethnic politics; urban power structure and leadership; and selected contemporary policy issues such as downtown redevelopment, poverty, and race” (UCSD Catalog, 2010-2011). There is a significant amount of reading to be done for this course (hundreds of pages per seminar). Success in this course will require you to be an active learner, reading assigned materials on time so that you can integrate the information given in both course texts and lectures. Active learning means that rather than looking at each separate piece of information as a CNN-style factoid, you will use both analysis and synthesis to find the interconnections binding this course and the larger world together. Those who derive the most benefit from this course will notice that the many bytes of information gathered from daily life will start to fit in with this course rather than seeming like random bits of landscape passing them by on the freeway.

COURSE THEMES
Although Jefferson’s yeoman farmer is the archetype envisioned in American political philosophy, the United States is very much a nation of cities. Despite the U.S.’s urbanization, Americans idealize country life. Suburban dwellers actively seek pastoral settings, endure traffic, and pay premium prices to reside in areas with primarily single-family dwellings. Southern California’s present traffic patterns are the result of an active resistance to the Frostbelt’s ‘big city’ paradigm of high urban density and congestion. This region’s urban spaces demonstrate our collective schizophrenia, as urban planners struggle to deal with the anti-urban values of our increasingly urban American society.

At the same time as the United States is a nation of cities, it is comprised of cities of nations. The urban areas of the U.S. are vast polyglots of multicultural diversity. In Los Angeles, there is probably greater diversity in linguistic, cultural, religious, racial, ethnic, national, social, and economic terms than ever compressed in one place before. L.A. is the second largest concentration of Spanish-speaking people in the world (Mexico City is the first). This hyper-diversity is driving fears of Balkanization—the concern that one country and culture cannot accommodate such heterogeneity. Fear of pluralization is part of America’s Janus-faced perspective on cities—that continues to favor residence in a metropolis, yet yearns for the simple life of Thornton Wilder’s Our Town.

This course will look at the U.S.’s experience with the forces of immigration and migration, urbanization and suburbanization, industrialization and post-industrialization. It will also treat the growing internationalization of economics, which runs counter to the greater localization of politics. This is indeed the paradox of our times. At the same time as the barriers to international trade have come down, and greater networks of transportation and communication have been constructed, parochial forces have gained greater salience. In terms of economics, globalization has featured the rise and expansion through mergers of multi- and transnational corporations, as well as the creation of such institutions as the EU, including within its membership regions.
chronically at war for many centuries. In terms of politics, such primordial forces as religion, ethnicity and culture now carry increased salience. New conflicts continually arise from the clash of these persistent identities that social scientists once termed obsolete.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Your course grade will be based on a take-home midterm, a term paper, participation and a three-part cumulative final examination. The take-home midterm will consist of two essays. I will hand out the essay question one week before these essays are due. Students will also complete an argumentative term paper for the class. The study guide for the final, with both terms and essay questions for which to prepare, will be handed out at least one week prior to the exam.

You are permitted to form groups to assist you in preparing for examinations, but neither your term paper nor your exams should be anyone’s work but your own. Be sure to carefully review the UCSD’s policies on integrity of scholarship; these are included in the General Catalog and posted on the internet. If a student submits work that closely resembling that of colleagues, or work that uses sources without proper citation, he or she may be faced with charges of academic dishonesty. Please ask for clarification if you do not understand. There is NO extra credit with which to compensate for poor performance; course grades are calculated as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PORTION OF COURSE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take-Home Midterm</td>
<td>July 19, 2011</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>July 26, 2011</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>July 30, 2011</td>
<td>25%</td>
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The dates for the take-home midterm, term paper and final exam are given in this syllabus, and are not negotiable. If you can’t make these deadlines, please don’t take the class. Exceptions are invidious and make the course unfair for other students. Late work will be penalized accordingly if the student is unable to provide documentation acceptable to the instructor and UCSD.

Required Texts


SCHEDULE--LECTURES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| June 28  | Broad Overview of Course and Concepts.  
The City’s Place in Human History.  
The Theory of Regimes: Power in the American City.  
No readings prior to first day’s lecture; please do all readings assigned before the lecture of the day they are listed. |
| June 30  | The Mercantile City in Antebellum United States.  
J&S, Chapter 1; K&J, Chapter 1.  
The Limitless City and its Growth Imperative.  
K&J, Chapter 2; Erie, Part I. |
| July 5   | *The Last Hurrah* and Bossism: The Death and Life of Machine Politics and Political Machines.  
J&S, Chapter 2-3; K&J, Chapter 3; Riordon, all. |
| July 7   | The Political Economy of Reform: Democracy and Development.  
Urban Governance in California: Other Cities’ Experiences.  
J&S, Chapters 4-5; Erie, part II. |
| July 12  | The Growth Machine: *Jaws*  
City Charters and Developmental Reform.  
Federal Urban Policy from FDR to Obama  
Erie, part III. |
| July 14  | Cities in a Federal System: the Intergovernmental Perspective.  
J&S, Chapters 6-7 and 15.  
“Show Me the Money”: The Urban Fiscal Crisis.  
| July 19  | The Politics and Policy of the Emerging Metropolis.  
J&S, Chapters 8 and 10; K&J, Chapter 7.  
Secession and ‘NIMBYism’—the other side of “community.”  
J&S, Chapter 11; K&J, Chapters 5-6. |
|           | **Take-Home Midterm Due!**                                                                 |                                                                                                   |
| July 21  | Race and Ethnic Politics in U.S. Cities.  
J&S, Chapters 9 and 14; K&J, Chapter 4.  
The American Dilemma: From Protest to Electoral Politics.  
| July 26  | Rustbelt Race Relations: Philly, the Big Apple and the Windy City.  
Browning, Chapters 3-5.  
Paths to Political Incorporation in the Golden State: *The Fire This Time*.  
Browning, Chapters 1-2 and 6. |
|           | **Term Paper Due!**                                                                        |                                                                                                   |
| July 28  | *The Fire This Time* versus *Sa-i-gu*.  
Browning, Chapters 7-9.  
Browning, Chapters 10-12. |
| July 30  | **FINAL EXAMINATION, Saturday, 7:00 – 9:59 PM.**  
There will be a review session, with scheduling details TBA. |

**United States Popular Culture: the Anti-Urban Ethos—Participation Assignment**
Please read the following lyrics, drawn from songs within the soft jazz and country-western genres, respectively:
What I would like you to do for this assignment is to come up with popular cultural examples dealing with urban life in the U.S. Please give me an example of a song, a movie, a TV show, a book, a comic book or other piece of popular culture that you understand as a reflection of American urban life. Your brief essay should analyze the piece of culture and explain why you think it fits this assignment’s requirements. The essay should not exceed 2 pages at maximum and should be submitted in class on July 12, 2011.