I. COURSE OVERVIEW

The advanced topics seminar offers an in-depth exploration of core issues in urban politics such as community power structure, bureaucratic politics, minority empowerment, growth politics, governance reform, and the politics of city finance, public service delivery, planning, and downtown redevelopment. We focus upon Southern California as our urban/regional laboratory. The course has two objectives: to introduce you to theorizing about urban politics and to acquaint you with library and field research methods so that you can do innovative research.

Your course grade is based upon two papers (75 percent) and class discussion of the readings (25 percent). The first paper (25 percent), due week five, is a critical book review essay on one of the assigned readings. The second paper (50 percent), due at the end of the quarter, features research on a topic of your choice. You have the option of either doing an individual or group research project. If you choose to do field (rather than library) research, you can in enroll in summer session PS102JJ/USP 111 for two additional units of credit. You are asked to present a summary of your research at the end of the quarter.

II. BOOKS TO BE PURCHASED

Clarence Stone, *Regime Politics* (Kansas, 1989)

III. TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

March 28
Course introduction
Research topics: Roger Showley, *San Diego Union-Tribune*

April 4
Urban power structure
Dahl, *Who Governs?* (all)
April 11  Library resources. Meet in Geisel Library 274. The library resources session will be led by Urban Studies and Planning/U.S. Government Information Librarian Rebecca Hyde (tentative)
   Bureaucratic Power (I)
      Caro, *The Power Broker*, Parts I-IV

April 18  Field research methods
   Bureaucratic Power (II)
      Caro, *The Power Broker*, Parts V-VII

April 25  Minority empowerment and growth politics
   Stone, *Regime Politics* (all)

May 2  Workshop on research projects

May 9  Los Angeles as urban laboratory: the politics of secession and charter reform
   Sonenshein, *The City at Stake* (all)

May 16  San Diego as urban laboratory: the politics of city finance, public service delivery, planning, and downtown redevelopment
   Erie et al, *Paradise Plundered* (all)

May 23  Student research project presentations

May 30  Memorial Day observance: no class

Research papers are due the Friday of finals week, either emailed to me or left in my Poli Sci or USP faculty mailboxes.