ADVANCED TOPICS IN URBAN POLITICS

I. COURSE OVERVIEW

The advanced topics seminar offers an in-depth exploration of major issues in urban politics such as community power structure, bureaucratic politics, minority empowerment, governance, public finance, downtown redevelopment, urban and regional development, and globalization. We will focus upon San Diego and Los Angeles as urban/regional research laboratories. 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 original 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. 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* (Lawrence: Kansas, 1989)

III. TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

March 30  Course introduction

April 6   Urban power structure
            Research Topics: Roger Showley, *U-T San Diego* reporter
            Dahl, *Who Governs?* (all)

April 13  Bureaucratic power (I)
Caro, *The Power Broker*, Parts I-IV

April 20  Library resources and field research methods.  
Meet at Geisel Library’s Electronic Classroom (Room 274, left from main entrance). Reference librarian Kelly Smith (Urban Studies) will provide an overview of library resources for your research projects. Field research methods also will be discussed.

April 27  Bureaucratic power (II)  
Caro, *The Power Broker*, Parts V-VII.

May 4  Minority empowerment and downtown redevelopment  
Stone, *Regime Politics* (all)

May 11  San Diego as urban laboratory: public finance and governance challenges  
Erie et al, *Paradise Plundered* (all)

May 18  Los Angeles as global laboratory: infrastructure, globalization, and regional development  
Erie, *Globalizing L.A.* (all)

May 25  Memorial Day Observance

June 1  Student paper presentations

**Research papers due at the end of finals week.**