

Urban Politics and Governance Political Science 381

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Office Hours: M 1:00 – 2:00, Th 11:00 – 1:00, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the ways in which power operates in contemporary cities. Our examination of urban politics will consider various theories of urban governance as well as the relationship between new urban forms and strategies of social regulation. In addition to looking at traditional urban political structures, such as city councils and school boards, we will also consider the relationships between economic and political interests and we will investigate how those relationships shape the urban realm and impact urban lives. The role of citizenship – interpretations of social rights and responsibilities - in the contemporary urban environment will be a central consideration throughout the course.

REQUIRED READING

Brown, Michael (1997). *Replacing Citizenship: AIDS Activism and Radical Democracy*. New York and London: Guilford Press

Logan, John and Harvey Molotch (1987), *Urban Fortunes: the Political Economy of Place*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Mitchell, Don (2003). *The Right to the City*. New York and London: Guilford Press

Ross, Andrew (2000). *The Celebration Chronicles: life, liberty and the pursuit of property values in Disney's New Town*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Stone, Clarence (1989) *Regime Politics: governing Atlanta 1946-1988*. Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press

The Post and Courier

The City Paper

e-reserves

It is essential that you read the local daily (*Post and Courier*) and weekly (*The City Paper*) newspapers. Both are available on-line and around town. We will use examples from the local area to develop and explore theoretical issues addressed in lectures and readings. In addition to discussing local events in class, the newspapers will also provide the evidence necessary to develop your essay assignments (see below).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Essays:	200
Presentation:	25
Midterm Exam:	50
Final Exam:	100
Participation:	25
TOTAL:	400 points

Essays (4 x 50 points each)

You are required to write four essays that apply the theoretical concepts developed in reading and class discussions to local issues. Each essay will develop a different concept and should be approximately 6-8 double-spaced pages. Your ability to develop a solid essay will depend upon your mastery of the relevant concepts and a careful and attentive read of local newspapers. A good essay will: 1) have a point/thesis/argument, 2) define the terms under analysis and, 3) provide concrete evidence that elucidates the author's claims. Additional information for each essay topic will be provided. Essays are due in class on the assigned date. You will lose 5 points if the essay is not turned in at the beginning of class. You will lose an additional 5 points for each day the essay is late.

Presentation (25 points)

You will work in small groups to research some of the significant political bodies that govern Charleston (BAR, Charleston City Council, The School Board, Chamber of Commerce, County Councils, The Mayor's office). Your goal is to understand the organization's power- what its authority is, what its jurisdiction is, how it is structured, and the role it plays in the governance of the city. Presentations should be approximately 20 minutes. Further instruction will be provided.

Midterm Exam (50 points)

There will be an in-class, bluebook midterm exam on February 23.

Final Exam (100 points)

The final exam is scheduled for April 30 from 12:00 – 3:00.

Participation (25 points)

You are expected to attend every class. Effective class participation includes asking pertinent questions and requesting clarification, responding to questions posed by the instructor and classmates, engaging in class discussions and activities. Disagreement among class members can stimulate fruitful discussions as long as everyone is treated with respect. Disruptive behavior, such as interrupting someone, snickering, having sidebar conversations, and using your cell phone, is not acceptable and will hurt your grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Reading
Jan 8	Introduction
Jan 10	Representation in the city- the politics of governance
Jan 12	Selections from Dahl: <i>Who Governs?</i> (theories of urban governance)
Jan 15	No Class – MLK Day
Jan 17	Logan and Molotch: 1-49 (exchange value vs. use value, place as a commodity)
Jan 19	Logan and Molotch: 50-98 (city as growth machine)
Jan 22	Bob Jessop: “Post-Fordism and the State”
Jan 24	Harvey: “From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism”
Jan 26	Margit Mayer: “Post-Fordist City Politics”
Jan 29	Essay I due: Exchange value vs. Use Value/ place as a commodity
Jan 31	Stone: 1-50
Feb 2	Stone: 135-159
Feb 5	Stone: 160-199
Feb 7	Stone: 200-245
Feb 9	No class – work on presentations
Feb 12	Presentations:
Feb 14	Presentations:
Feb 16	Presentations:
Feb 19	Margaret Crawford: “City for Sale: Merchandising History at South Street Seaport” Susan Christopherson: “The Fortress City: Privatized Spaces, Consumer Citizenship”
Feb 21	Michael Sorkin: “See You in Disneyland”
Feb 23	Midterm Exam
Feb 26	Ross: 1-44
Feb 28	Ross: 45-93
Mar 1	Essay II due: The city as theme park
Mar 5	Spring Break
Mar 7	Spring Break
Mar 9	Spring Break

Mar 12	Ross: 94- 197
Mar 14	Ross: 198-246
Mar 16	Ross: 247-298
Mar 19	Ross: 299-325
Mar 21	Brown: ix-30
Mar 23	Brown: 57-83
Mar 26	Brown: 120-154
Mar 28	Brown: 155-196
Mar 30	Mitchell: 1-41
Apr 2	Essay III due: Radical citizenship
Apr 4	Mitchell: 42-80
Apr 6	Mitchell: 81-117
Apr 9	Mitchell: 118-160
Apr 11	Mitchell: 161-194
Apr 13	Mitchell: 195-236 Monahan: "Electronic Fortification in Phoenix: Surveillance Technologies and Social Regulation in Residential Communities"
Apr 16	Mark Purcell: "Citizenship and the Right to the Global City: Reimagining the Capitalist World Order," <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> 27(3) 2003
Apr 18	Essay IV due: Right to the city
Apr 20	TBA: potential catch up day
Apr 23	Bringing it all together, prep for final exam
Apr 30	Final Exam 12:00-3:00