Instructor Information:
Kendall D. Deas, Ph.D
Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science
Honors College; (Faculty Fellow)
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Office Hours:
Mondays & Wednesdays (1pm-2pm); (By Appointment)

Course Description:
This course is designed to provide a thorough understanding about how urban politics works and what conditions impact local governments in the United States. The course focuses on the impact of an urban society upon the forms, structures, and functions of city and county agencies. This course will also examine the political problems associated with urban growth, and city government’s response to policy issues such as employment, education, housing, social welfare, and social inequality. The topics we will be covering throughout the course include: (1.) The major problems facing urban communities such as deindustrialization, central city decline, poverty, racial/ethnic divide, urban sprawl, and government fragmentation; (2.) Factors affecting urban communities such as intergovernmental relations, the economy, social and demographic changes, privatism/NIMBYism, and globalization; (3.) Government structure in which urban politics functions such as forms of government, central-local relationships, and regional relationships; (4.) Interests and stakes in community decision-making such as community power, systemic power, the growth machine, race/ethnicity, immigration, and central cities vs. suburbs; and (5.) Main urban policy issues such as downtown revitalization, growth management, regionalism, city finance, and land-use.
Required Course Texts:


**Note:** Course textbooks are available for purchase at the main campus bookstore (Barnes & Nobles; 160 Calhoun Street). There will also be peer reviewed articles you will be assigned to read periodically and these will be posted in the course Oaks site by the instructor.

Learning Outcomes:

_Students who complete this course should be able to accomplish the following:_

1. Students will be able to describe the main components and structure of urban government.

2. Students will be able to comprehend the key theoretical models of urban politics.

3. Students will be able to understand the historical development of major urban areas in the U.S.

4. Students will be able to investigate and analyze political participation in urban government.

5. Students will become aware of and understand current issues affecting cities.

6. Develop an analytical, social science disposition toward urban government and politics.

7. Students will be able to use appropriate tools and search strategies for identifying particular types of information specific to the discipline; Evaluate the relevance, quality, and appropriateness of different sources of information; Recognize and classify the information contained within a bibliographic citation; Access and use information
ethically and legally. This will be assessed with a source identification and source relevance activity that will be part of an embedded librarian session for the course.

8. Students will be able to use appropriate critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques in appropriate disciplinary contexts and make connections across disciplines and/or relevant experiences.

Course Objectives:

This course is an overview of urban governments in the American federal system and their political institutions, concepts, and their development. The goal is to familiarize students with the goals and tools of urban governments, to present them with possibilities for participation, and to lay the groundwork for more in-depth study. The course is structured in a way that connects debates over the goals and tools of urban governments to contemporary political events, policies, and debates. The goals or objectives of this course are to achieve the following:

- Apply social science concepts, models, or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions, or social institutions.
- Identify and explain the central principles, institutions, procedures, and decision-making processes of urban governments in the American federal system.
- Evaluate the basic strengths and weaknesses of urban governments in the American federal system through the application of political concepts and ideas.
- Relate historical events and/or developments to contemporary political issues, debates and outcomes relevant to urban governments.
- Develop an analytical, social scientific disposition toward urban governments and politics.
- Enhance student knowledge concerning major urban issues and conflict of interests.
- Increase student knowledge about external factors challenging our communities.
- Raising student awareness about biases involved in urban politics, policies, and government structure.
- Enhancing student knowledge concerning power and interests of urban political actors.
- Increasing student knowledge about the local government decision-making process.

Prerequisite(s): POLI 101 or permission of the instructor.
Course Assignments:

It is preferred that all writing assignments be submitted in the Oaks dropbox for this course. However, if students experience a complication with the system, it will also be acceptable to submit assignments through campus email or submit a hardcopy to the instructor.

Assignment 1: Discussion Prompts

Students will respond to 5 discussion prompts throughout the course. The discussion prompts will be questions for analysis that extend from the weekly readings and class discussions on urban government and politics. These written assignments should be about 300-500 words in length (1.5 or double spaced; 11 or 12 point font). They should be completed in a word document and uploaded into an assignment dropbox for the course. If there are complications, they can also be emailed or a hardcopy can be submitted to the instructor. The due dates for these assignments are indicated in the syllabus but can be changed at the discretion of the course instructor; (100 pts).

Assignment 2: Political Issue Research Memo

Students will research and identify a political or domestic policy issue or problem of concern relevant to discussions in the current political environment and related to urban government and politics and write a 10-15 page political issue research memo that 1.) identifies the issue of concern and provides some brief historical overview, 2.) explains why it is a significant policy issue of concern, and 3.) provides some type of policy prescription or plan to solve the political/policy problem impacting urban communities. The memos should be (1.5 or double-spaced; 11 or 12 point font). As there is no final exam for this course, the assignment will be due the day of the scheduled final exam for the course by the College; (100 pts).

Assignment 3: Political Topics Presentation

Each student will be responsible for presenting some research on a relevant political topic related to urban government and politics. These presentations are to be done in small groups of 3 to 5 students. These will be brief presentations (10 minutes in length) and can be delivered by using powerpoint, Prezi, or distributing a class outline and delivered orally. Students will be asked to identify a topic of interest and state and indicate their selection on a sign-up sheet to be distributed by the instructor by February 1st. We will have student presentations throughout the course of the spring semester; (100 pts).
Assignment 4: Midterm Examination

The midterm exam will be 2 written essay responses. Students will be given 4 essay questions of which they are to select only 2 to answer worth 50 points each. There will be a short review session for the midterm exam; (100 pts).

Course Requirements and Expectations:

Active student participation is expected in this course. Students are expected to:

A. Completion of all assignments on a timely basis including completion of all assigned readings prior to the class at which those readings are scheduled for discussion.
B. Monitoring on a regular basis the following: (1.) A newspaper (or comparable news service) available online that covers developments concerning urban government and politics in South Carolina and nationally on a regular basis; (2.) A newspaper (or comparable news service) available online that covers developments related to urban government and politics in cities or locales you will cover in your group presentation on a regular basis (i.e. major papers for urban centers; Charleston-The Post and Courier; Atlanta- The Atlanta Journal Constitution; Chicago-The Chicago Tribune).
C. Participation in class discussions on the basis of your reading about your group presentation, your research related to your political issue research memo, and items A and B above.
D. Attend class regularly and be punctual and respectful to others (i.e. no disruptive behaviors, no cell phones, and other telecommunications devices use), and remaining for the entire class unless the instructor has been informed (with the exception of illness or family emergency, etc.).

Writing Lab:

I encourage students to take advantage of the Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library; First Floor). Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses. They offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, please call 1-843-953-5635 or visit http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/writing-lab/.
Attendance and Participation:

Attendance will be taken for this course. All students are expected to attend class with due diligence. Students who miss more than 4 classes will be dropped from this course. Absences will only be excused with a medical note or personal/family emergencies, a formal discussion with the instructor, and documenting the absence. Students with a legitimate, documentable reason may require an absence memo by bringing documentation to the Office of the Associate Dean of Students at 67 George Street, where the student may fill out a brief form with a schedule of missed class/classes, dates missed and the names of the appropriate professors and advisor. There is a class participation grade and missing classes will negatively impact this area of assessment for the course. No texting or use of social media in class and excessive use will result in points deducted from the final grade.

Honor System:

All students are expected to comply with the honor code of the College of Charleston. Violation of the honor code, in particular plagiarism will result in a grade of XF for the course. Ignorance of the standards, unintentional error, or personal or academic pressures are not acceptable reasons for violation of the College’s academic integrity standards.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA):

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to reasonable accommodations. Please notify the instructor during the first week of any accommodations needed for the course. We are here to work with you and invite you to inform us of any accommodations you need. You can also contact the Office of Disability Services at (843)-953-1431.

Campus Closue and Inclement Weather:

If the College of Charleston closes and members of the community are evacuated due to inclement weather, students are responsible for taking course materials with them in order to continue with course assignments consistent with instructions provided by faculty. In cases of extended periods of institution-wide closure where students have relocated, instructors may articulate a plan that allows for supplemental academic engagement despite these circumstances.
Assignment Points

Discussion Prompts 100 (max. 100%)

Issue Memo 100 (max. 100%)

Political Topic Presentation 100 (max. 100%)

Midterm 100 (max. 100%)

Class Participation 100 (max. 100%)

Total Points-(500 pts)

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Course Reading and Assignment Schedule: (Note: Specific course reading will be assigned daily in class)

**Week 1-January 8th and 10th**
- Levine, M.; Chapter 1: The Urban Situation: Global City, Tourist City, Bankrupt City
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 1: City Politics in America: An Introduction

**Week 2-January 13th, 15th, and 17th**
- Levine, M.; Chapter 1: The Urban Situation: Global City, Tourist City, Bankrupt City
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 1: City Politics in America: An Introduction

**Week 3-January 22nd and 24th**
- **January 20th; MLK Day; (no class)**
- Levine, M.; Chapter 2: The Evolution of Cities and Suburbs
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 2: The Enduring Legacy
- **Discussion Prompt 1 Due: January 24th (midnight)**

**Week 4-January 27th, 29th, and 31st**
- Levine, M.; Chapter 3: Recent Trends: Gentrification and Globalization
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 3: Party Machines and the Immigrants

**Week 5-February 3rd, 5th, and 7th**
- Levine, M.; Chapter 4: Who Has the Power? Decision Making, Economic Development, and Urban Regimes
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 4: the Reform Crusades

**Week 6-February 10th, 12th, and 14th**
- Levine, M., Chapter 5: Formal Structure and Leadership Style
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 5: Urban Voters and the Rise of a National Democratic Majority
- **Discussion Prompt 2 Due: February 12th (midnight)**
Week 7-February 17th, 19th, and 21st

- Levine, M.; Chapter 6: The Machine, Reform, and Postreform City
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 6: The City/Suburban Divide

Week 8-February 24th, 26th, and 28th

- Levine, M.; Chapter 7: Citizen Participation
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 7: National Policy and the City/Suburban Divide
- Friday February 28th; (Midterm Exam)

Week 9-March 2nd, 4th, and 6th

- Levine, M.; Chapter 8: Improving Urban Services
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 8: Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race
- Discussion Prompt 3 Due: March 6th (midnight)

Week 10-March 9th, 11th, and 13th

- Levine, M.; Chapter 9: A Suburban Nation
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 9: The Rise of the Sunbelt

Week 11-March 16th, 18th, and 20th

- Spring Break; (no class)

Week 12-March 23rd, 25th, and 27th

- Levine, M.; Chapter 10: Regional Governance in a Global Age
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 10: The Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis
- Discussion Prompt 4 Due: March 25th (midnight)
Week 13- March 30th, April 1st and 3rd

- Levine, M.; Chapter 11: The Intergovernmental City: State and National Policy
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 11: Governing the Fragmented Metropolis

Week 14- April 6th, 8th, and 10th

- Levine, M.; Chapter 12: The Future of Urban America
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 12: The Metropolitan Battleground
- Discussion Prompt 5 Due: April 10th (midnight)

Week 15- April 13th, 15th, and 17th

- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 13: The Renassance of the Metropolitan Center
- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 14: Governing the Divided City

Week 16- April 20th and 22nd

- Judd, D.R. and Hinze, A.M.; Chapter 15: City and Metropolis in the Global Era
- April 23rd: (Reading Day; Political Issue Research Memo Due during final exam period)

Note: There is no final exam for this course. Students will submit their political issue research memo in lieu of a final examination on the day finals are scheduled by the College for this course.