

Instructor: Takashi Tsukamoto

E-mail: t_tsukam@uncg.edu

Office: GRAM 234

Office hours: Wed. 5:00PM – 6:00PM (and by appt.)

Phone: 336-256-0513

Days	Time	Room
Wed	06:30 PM- 09:20 PM	GRAM209

Fall 2009
PSC520: Urban Political Systems

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a theoretical overview to understand the nature and contents of urban politics and policy making that shape American cities and metropolitan regions. By critically reviewing their external and internal conditions, we will identify issues central to effective and democratic governance of our urban communities. The topics we will be covering throughout the course include:

- Urban politics in the context of American political history and culture
- American federal system and its impact on metropolitan development
- Urban political economy and policy making
- Problems in contemporary American metropolis, such as sprawl, continued racial tensions and disparities, government fragmentation, and social and environmental sustainability
- Globalization and changing economic realities
- Effective urban governance and role of local political actors

Course Goals:

At the end of the semester, you will be knowledgeable about:

- The economic, political, social and environmental factors interacting with our urban communities
- The local political/policy actions in light of changing external environments
- The characteristics, conditions and biases of urban political economy
- The main contents of American metropolitan governance and implications
- The opportunities for and limits of urban policy actions

We will achieve these course goals through: assigned readings, class discussions, presentations, and papers with research contents

Course Requirements (modified requirements for undergraduate students):

- Four topic papers: 40%
- One case study paper (outline): 30%
- One presentation: 15%
- Class participation: 15%

Topic papers

You will produce four two-to-three page papers (single-space, typed in a 12-point font with 1-inch margins) in response to a prepared topics/questions (given to you in later dates). The purpose is to deepen your knowledge about the topics we cover. Analytical applications of theoretical and conceptual knowledge to real-life conditions are important parts of the papers.

Urban case study paper and presentation

Here is the chance where you make in-depth analyses about specific urban conditions/policy fields of your choice to understand the connection between politics, public decision and their consequences (separate instructions will be given later dates). You will share your findings with other class members by making a presentation.

NOTE:

1. Cite your papers properly (e.g. the APA, MLA), including for Internet sources. Avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism includes unidentified quotes, paraphrases, or summaries. Whether intentional or not, plagiarism is a form of cheating. Plagiarism will result in an “F” on the assignment and in the course.
2. If you have special needs because of a learning disability, please feel free to discuss this with me.
3. Blackboard (and email addresses recorded there) is used as the main source of telecommunication.

Grading Policy:

Final grades are determined according to the following schedule. Class attendance and active participation will be factored in for borderline grade adjustments.

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	Below 60

Required Books: The following books should be available at the school bookstore

- Bernard H. Ross and Myron A. Levine, *Urban Politics: Power in Metropolitan America* (Seventh edition), Thomson Wadsworth [Text]

Other Reading Materials:

- E-reserves and other reading materials are on Blackboard

Week	Topic and Reading
1	<u>8/26 Introduction and overview</u> Text: Ch. 1: The Urban Situation BB: A top 10 list of things to know about American cities
2	<u>9/02 American urbanization</u> Text: Ch. 2: The Evolution of Cities and Suburbs E-reserve: “Urban American in transformation: 121-148” (Kleinberge), “Crabgrass frontier: 190-230” (Jackson) BB: “The new convergence of power” (Salisbury)
3	<u>9/09 Urban political economy</u> Text: Ch. 4: Who Has the Power? BB: “The city as a growth machine” (Molotch), “Locality and community in politics of local economic development” (Cox and Mair), “Systemic power in community decision making” (Stone)
4	<u>9/16 Globalization and the city</u> Text: Ch. 3: Recent Trends: Gentrification and Globalization BB: “The world city hypothesis” (Friedmann), “Cities and communities in the global economy” (Sassen), “Newark, decline and avoidance, renaissance and desire” (K. Newman), “The gentry, misjudged as neighbors” (NYT) Turn in case study paper proposal
5	<u>9/23 Globalization, neoliberalism and state rescaling</u> Ch. 14: National and State Policy toward Cities BB: “Homeless/global” Smith, “Global cities, glocal states” (Brenner), “Space, scale and state strategy” (MacLeod and Goodwin) First topic paper due
6	<u>9/30 New urban growth politics</u> BB: Promoting tourism in US cities” (Judd), “Race and the tourist bubble in downtown Atlanta” (H. Newman), “Ground zero in urban decline” (Stanley),

7	<u>10/07 The urban machine and reform politics</u> Text: Ch. 5: Structure and Leadership Style, Ch. 6: Machine Politics, & Ch. 7: Reform Politics BB: "Why political machines have not withered away" (Wolfinger), "Writing the rules to win the game" (Bridges and Kronick)
8	<u>10/14 Suburbanization and race</u> Text: Ch. 11: Suburban Politics and Metropolitan America (p339-p364) BB: "Ghetto of exclusion and the fortified enclaves" (Marcuse), "Workers and strangers" (Maher), "Poverty pockets and life chances" (Van Kempen) Second topic paper due
9	<u>10/21 Race and community</u> Ch. 8: Citizen Participation and Decentralization BB: "Community development in Chicago" (Betancur and Gills), "Race and representation in Detroit's community development coalitions" (Shaw and Spence), "Community development and the politics of deracialization" (George)
10	<u>10/28 Community development and the growth machine</u> Text: Ch. 9: Urban Bureaucracy and Service Delivery, & Ch. 10: Women and the Gendered City E-reserve: "Challenging the growth machine: 44-110" (Ferman) BB: "Social capital and social change" (Gittell et al)
11	<u>11/04 Sprawl and smart growth</u> Text: Ch. 11: Suburban Politics and Metropolitan America (p364-p375) BB: "The big picture" (Downs), "Smart growth: Why we discuss it more than we do it" (Downs), "Ten years of smart growth" (Gray), "Smart growth and school reform" (Baum) Third topic paper due
12	<u>11/11 New regionalism</u> Text: Ch. 12: The Politics of metropolitan Governance & Ch. 13: The Politics of Regional Cooperation BB: "The new regionalism" (wheeler), "The wealth of regions" (Storper and Scott), "Toward the learning region" (Florida), "Urban warfare" (Harden)
13	<u>11/18 Governing the city in a globalized world</u> Ch. 15: Financing Urban America, & Ch. 16: The Future of Urban America BB: "Regimes and regional governance" (Hamilton), "Decoding the newest metropolitan regionalism" (Brenner), "Inequality and politics in the creative city-region" (McCann),
	11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday, thanks!
14	<u>12/02 Governing the city in a globalized world</u> BB: "City regions and social reproduction" (Kruger and Savage), "Cities in a globalized world" (Van Vliet), "The ordinary city" (Amin and Graham) Case study paper due
15	12/09 Fourth topic paper due

Changes may occur to the above schedule to accommodate unexpected events