Political Science 207 Urban Politics Fall 2009

Carleton College Prof. Keiser

Political Science 207 provides an in-depth examination of three very different themes. We will start with an examination of urban electoral organization and institutions with special attention to the development of minority political power. Then we will examine suburban economic development and spatial use, with a focus on the evolving relationship between suburb and city. Finally, we will focus on cutting edge issues in metropolitan public policy, particularly housing policy and its consequences for education and income opportunities. Our coverage of each of these will combine fascinating historical narrative and present as well as past theorizing about these themes. As a student of politics, I expect that you will find at least one of these three themes to be enthralling and deserving of future attention. If you end up enjoying all three segments of this course, then perhaps you are a future urbanist!

Students will be introduced to the politics of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston and other cities of the US and Europe (Berlin, Paris, Copenhagen). We will use theoretical lenses that emphasize ethnicity, race, class, gender, machine and reform politics, politics of place/space, democratic theory and institutional power.

There will be two exams of 8-10 pages each at the midterm (40%) and in the finals period (40%). These exams will be take-home and may contain one or two mandatory questions. Students may submit a one page proposal of a research paper topic with bibliography that builds from course material that will substitute for the final exam, if approved. Paper length will be 12-20 pages.

All students are expected to regularly attend class, participate in class discussions, and do all of the reading prior to class (20%). Because we are on the C schedule, each class is about five percent of the term. Students must send me an email no less than one hour prior to class with a “take-away point.” This is an insightful paragraph or more; you might restate an argument from the reading that you thought was eye-opening, or note the way an article complements or contradicts another perspective (or itself). My preference is that you can point us to a specific part of the text on a particular page. With this take-away point in hand, you will be prepared to start, redirect, or contribute to our discussion.

My office is 417 Willis. Students are encouraged to use office hours for further discussion of course topics and potential research interests. Books for the course are available in the bookstore. All other readings are on the course Moodle page.

9/15:

9/17:D. Judd and T. Swanstrom, "Party Machines and Political Entrepreneurs," and “The Politics of Reform.”

R. Wolfinger, “Ethnic Politics,” The Politics of Progress.

Islamist Minority

9/22:W. L. Riordon, Plunkitt of Tammany Hall

9/24: R. Wolfinger, "Why Political Machines Have Not Withered Away..."

K. Jackson, Crabgrass Frontier, ch. 7

"Street .. Minority Hiring"

Recommended only: Merton, "Latent Functions of Political Machine"

Edit summary

9/29: Lecture on Minority Political Power in Machine and Reform Institutions

10/1: Kaufman, The Urban Voter, chs. 1-4.

10/6:Kaufman, The Urban Voter, chs. 5-8.

10/8: P. Green, “Irish Chicago;” M. Preston, "Election of Harold Washington;" L. Bennett, “Chicago’s New Politics of Growth.” Chicago Reporter, “The Hispanic Vote”

Recommended Only: go to website of This American Life and listen to show on Harold Washington

10/13: Lecture and Review

10/15: **Midterm Exam Due**

10/20: J. Garreau, Edge City, chs. 1-5

10/22: J. Garreau, Edge City, chs. 5-7

10/27:J. Garreau, Edge City, chs. 8-10

10/29: R. Florida, "Cities and the Creative Class"

Gays and Urban Development

European Creative Cities

Streetsblog: Jan Gehl

11/3: Briggs, The Geography of Opportunity, chs. 2, 4, 5.

11/5: Briggs, ch. 6-7.

11/10: Appel, "Expanding Housing Rights"

Briggs, The Geography of Opportunity

11/12: TBA

11/17: Last Day of Class