

**Bowie State University**  
School of Arts and Sciences  
Department of History and Government

**Govt. 283-001: Urban Politics & Policy Analysis (3 Credit Hours)**

**Fall 2010**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. William B. Lewis      **E-Mail dress:** [wlewis@bowiestate.edu](mailto:wlewis@bowiestate.edu)  
**PHONE NO.:** 301-860-3602  
**OFFICE:** MLK 0202  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 – 4:50 p.m.  
Wed. 1:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Fri. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**I. COURSE PREREQUISITES:** None

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An analysis of the politics and governments of urban areas with emphasis on how those governments generate and allocate resources in an attempt to cope with human problems in their polities.

**III. REQUIRED READINGS**

Judd, Dennis R., and Todd Swanstrom. *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Longman, 2008.

Levine, Myron A. *Urban Politics*. 14<sup>th</sup> ed. Guilford, Conn: Duskin/McGraw Hill Publishers, 2010.

Daily readings of national and local newspapers: *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, and *the Gazette*.

Additional reading assignments will be placed in the reserve collection of the University Library.

**Recommended/Supplementary Texts:**

Kantor, Paul and Dennis R. Judd. *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: A Reader* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Longman, 2010.

Levy, John M. *Contemporary Urban Planning* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Longman, 2011.

**IV. KNOWLEDGE BASES:**

- A. Students will be familiar with the key terms and concepts in urban politics.
- B. Students will examine the political attitudes, institutions and processes in urban areas.
- C. Students will analyze the relationship between government and the human problems of the central city.

**V. CURRICULUM THEMES**

Academic Scholar (objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 &10)

Effective Practitioner (objectives 5 & 8)

Technological Applications (objective 7)

Multiple Forms of Assessment (objectives 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Special Population Perspectives (objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 &10)

Multicultural & Global Perspectives (objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6)

Reflective Practitioner (objectives 2 & 3)

Personal and Interpersonal Perspectives (objectives 2, 3, 4 & 5)

**VI. COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to enable students to:**

1. Understand the key terms and concepts in urban society.
2. Examine the development of cities and urban areas;
3. Describe the legal basis and the major forms of urban government;
4. Identify the major revenue sources of urban government;
5. Examine political leadership in urban areas;
6. Identify the major policy issues and problems facing urban governments;
7. Examine the role of the bureaucracy;
8. Make use of technology through class assignments;
9. Write a term paper analyzing an urban government's efforts in dealing with an urban problem; and

10. Assess the future of the urban areas.

**VII. INSTRUCTIONAL MODES:** Methods and activities for the course include:

- Lectures that aim to illuminate the major terms, concepts and themes in the readings.
- Guest speakers to explain the dynamics of law making at the urban level.
- Writing exercises that require the analysis of an urban government's efforts in dealing with urban problems.
- Students covering the assigned readings for class discussions.

**VIII. STUDENT REQUIREMENTS**

A. Attendance

1. Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually.
2. Students are required to sign the roll at each class session. A record of attendance will be maintained throughout the semester.
3. It is the responsibility of the student to make-up all work missed during any period of absence.
4. The University's rule states that "a student may be advised by the instructor to withdraw from a course for excessive absences. Five (5) or more hours of unexcused absences before the final date for withdrawal may result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course".

B. Examinations and Short Papers

1. Examinations will be given based on readings and lectures. There will be no make-up examinations, except in extenuating circumstances such as death of a relative, child birth, auto accident, etc.
2. The submission of a short paper at a specified date.

C. Class Participation

Students will be required to participate in class discussions. Each student will be assigned specific readings and requested to lead discussions.

## **IX. EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND GRADING SCALE**

### **A. Methods**

Examinations, short papers, and class participation will be used in evaluating the performance of students.

1. Students will be given three unit examinations. The lowest unit score will be dropped in the computation of the final grade.
2. Students will be required to take the final examination.
3. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled.

### **B. Papers**

1. Each student will be required to submit a term paper. The paper should provide analysis of the politics of an urban problem.

Select a major problem faced by people living in cities/urban areas, and analyze an urban government's efforts in dealing with the problem.

Characterize the urban area. Where is it? Who lives in the area/county? What are the other unique qualities of the area?

Identify and describe the problem and its impact on the urban population

Analyze the passage of a specific ordinance by an urban government in resolving the urban problem. How was the bill drafted? What was the language of the bill? What role did the urban government and interest groups play in the passage of the bill?

How is the ordinance being implemented?

Evaluate the effectiveness of the ordinance in solving the problems. What are your suggestions?

2. The paper will be no more than four pages long; typed with double-

spacing, excluding bibliography page.

3. A minimum of six references is required, excluding the texts and internet sources.
4. An outline of the major paper is required.
5. Term Paper Procedures and Deadlines.
6. Topics must be approved by the Professor.

Students are required to follow these procedures and deadlines in completing the paper.

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
A. Selection of Topic	September 13, 2010
B. Submission of outline	September 27, 2010
C. Submission of draft copy	October 25, 2010
D. Submission of final copy	November 15, 2010

**NOTE:** Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Final copies of the term papers will not be accepted after **November 15, 2010.**

For direct quotation from any web page, always use quotations marks or indented block with complete URL (web address). For paraphrase or use of ideas, include only the URL.

**Plagiarism: Any plagiarism will result in an 'F' for the course. This includes copying material from the internet without proper notations.**

6. Term papers will be graded as follows:

A. Statement of thesis (clarity, concept, definitions)	5%
B. Organization and coherence (mechanics-paragraphing, sentence structure, grammar, language usage)	15%
C. Depth of Research (demonstrated by critical thinking and analysis)	40%
D. Use of Footnotes and/or Endnotes	10%
E. Bibliographic & Citations' Format	10%
F. Oral Presentations	<u>20%</u>

**Total: 100%**

7. Students will be required to present their papers to the class.
8. Oral presentations will be evaluated as follows:
- Clarity of thesis statement 5%
  - Organization and coherence of presentation 15%
- Total: 20%**

C. Grading Scale and Distribution of Percentages

1.	First Unit Exam .....	25%
2.	Second Unit Exam .....	25%
3.	Final Exam .....	20%
5.	Term Paper .....	20%
6.	Class Participation .....	<u>10%</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>100%</b>

The numerical equivalents of letter grades are as follows:

90-100	= A
80-89	= B
70-79	= C
60-69	= D
<b>Below 60</b>	<b>= F</b>

**NOTE:**

- Final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.
- The instructor reserves the right to modify the organization of the course content.
- The instructor may adjust the grading scale in the computation of the final grades.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week 1**

A. Course Overview

B. Definition of key terms: politics, power, government, urbanization, urban area, metropolitan area and city.

**Week 2**

A. The Urban Situation

1. Cities in the Global Era
2. The politics of growth
3. The politics of Governance
4. Politics of Defended Space

Text: Chapter 1, “The Evolution of City Politics in America: An Introduction.”  
Reader #30, “The Six Suburban Eras of the United States.”

**Week 3**

B. The Development of Cities

1. National Development and the cities
2. The Urbanization of America
3. The competition for Urban Growth

Text: Chapter 2, “The Political Legacy of America’s Urban Past”  
Reader #6, “Movers and Shakers”  
Reader #10, “Too Much Froth”  
Reader #16, “Eminent Domain Revisited.”

**Weeks 4 & 5**

**First Unit Exam –September 20, 2010**

C. Political Processes and Institutions

1. The Origins and Nature of Machine Politics
2. The Reform Movement
3. Forms of City Government
4. Modes of Political Participation

Texts: Chapter 3, “Party Machines and the Immigrants,” Chapter 4, “The Reform Crusades,”

Chapter 5, “The Urban Voters and the Reshaping of National Politics”

Reader #36, “Regional Coalition-Building and Inner Suburbs”

Reader #37, “Is Regional Government the Answer?”

### **Weeks 6 & 7**

#### **D. National Politics and the Cities**

1. The changing Political Balance
2. National Policies and Urban Development
3. The Politics of National Urban Policy

Texts: Chapter 6, “The City/The Suburban Divide”

Chapter 7, “National Policy and the City-Suburban Divide”

Chapter 8, “Urban Policy and the Politics of Race”

Reader #5, “Bridge Blockade after Katrina Remains Divisive Issue”

Reader #27, “Joint Statement of Nine University-Based Civil Rights Centers.”

### **Week 8**

### **Second Unit Exam – October 18, 2010**

#### **E. The Fracturing of the American Political Community**

1. The Roots of Urban Crisis
2. The Movement to the Central Cities
3. Carving up the Metropolis

Texts: Chapter 9, “The Rise of the Sunbelt”

Chapter 10, “The Politics of Suburban Development”

Chapter 11, “Governing the Fragmented Metropolis”

Reader #31, “Patio Man and the Sprawl People”

### **Week 9**

#### **F. Financing Urban Government**

1. Why City Budgets are Political
2. Cities in the Intergovernmental System
3. Sources of Municipal Revenue

Text: Chapter 12, City Finances and the Dynamics of Growth.”  
 Reader #33, “Principles of New Urbanism.”

### **Week 10**

#### G. The Economy of the City

1. An Urban Renaissance
2. The Decline and Recovery of Downtown

Text: Chapter 13, “The Fall and Rise of the Inner Cities”  
 Reader #3, “Return to Center.”

### **Weeks 11, 12 & 13**

### **Third Unit Exam – November 15, 2010**

#### H. Major Policy Issues & Problems Facing Urban Areas

1. Immigration  
 Reader #2, “Skipping the City for the Suburbs”
2. Traffic Congestion  
 Reader #40, “Traffic: Why It’s Getting Worse.”
3. Crime  
 Reader #28, “Broken Windows.”
4. Housing  
 Reader #42, “The Rise, Fall, and Rise Again of Public Housing”

#### I. Future Outlook

1. The Balancing Act
2. Economic Revival

Texts: Chapter 14, “Governance in the Global Era” and Chapter 15, “The Political Fault Lines of the Global Era”  
 Reader #45, “The Gathering Storm”

**Disability Statement:** Students who have a disability and who would like accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Room 1328 in the Business and Graduate Studies Building or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301-860-4067.

**Specific Notification:** All students must pass the English Proficiency Examination in order to graduate from Bowie State University. “After completing ENGL 101 & 102: Composition & Literature 1 & 2, students must take and successfully pass the Bowie State University English Proficiency Examination. Transfer students who completed their English composition requirements at another university should take the English Proficiency Examination during their first semester of enrollment at the University.”

**Final Examination – Monday, December 13, 2010**

### Classic References

- Abbott, Carl. *The New Urban America: Growth and Politics in Sunbelt Cities*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1981.
- Bollens, John and Schmandt, Henry. *The Metropolis*. NY: Harper & Row, 1981.
- Bradbury, Katherine, Anthony Downs and Kenneth Small, *Urban Decline and the Future of American Cities*. Washington, D. C., The Brookings Institution, 1982.
- Downs, Anthony. *New Visions for Urban America*. Washington, DC: The Brooklyn Institute, 1994.
- Garvin, Alexander. *The American City: What Works, What Doesn't*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1995.
- Hacker, Andrew. *Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal*. New York: Ballantine Press, 1992.
- Hahn, Harlan and Charles Levine (eds.). *Urban Politics*. NY: Longman, 1984.
- Judd, Dennis and Paul Kantor. *Enduring Tensions in Urban Politics*. New York: MacMillian Publishing Co. 1992.
- Kelly, Barbara, M. ed. *Suburbia Reexamined*, New York: Greenwood Press, 1989.
- Miller, Zane L. *The Urbanization of Modern America*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1983.
- Palen, John J. *The Urban World*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1987
- Pohlmann, Marcus. *Political Power in the Postindustrial city*. New York: Association Press, 1986.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Governing the Postindustrial City*. Longman Publishers, 1993.
- Rich, Richard (ed.). *The Politics of Urban Public Services*. MA: Lexington Books, 1982.

### Contemporary References (1996-2010)

- Browning, Rufus et al. *Racial Politics in American Cities*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Longmans, 2003.
- Fisher, Ronald, Eric D. *Poor Policy: How Government Harms the Poor*. Boulder, Co: Westview Press, 1996.
- Graham, Stephen (ed.). *Cities War and Terrorism: Towards an Urban Geopolitic*. New York: Blackwell, 2005.
- Harrigan, John. *Political Change in the Metropolis*. (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Longman Publishers, 2000.
- Jones, Terrence O. *The Metropolitan Chase: Politics and Policies in Urban America*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2003.
- Judd, Dennis R. *The Politics of Urban America*. Boston: Ally and Bacon, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Politics of Urban America: A Reader*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). NY: Longman Publisher, 2002.
- Kantor, Paul and Dennis R. Judd. *American Urban Politics in a Global Age: A Reader* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Longman, 2010.
- Levy, John M. *Contemporary Urban Planning* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Longman, 2011.
- Macionos, John J. & Vincent N. Parrillo, *Cities and Urban Life*. NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2004.
- Sassen, Saskia, *Cities in a World Economy*. Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge, Press, 2001.
- Schanberg, Eric D. *Poor Policy: How Government Harms the Poor*. Boulder Co: Westview Press, 1996.

## **Journals**

American Political Science Review

Democracy

Journal of Politics

Journal of Urban Affairs

Public Administration Review

The Urban Review

Urban Affairs Quarterly

Urban Studies