Urban Politics Syllabus

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students the study of urban politics. The course is organized around fundamental concepts and questions in political science as they are applied to the study of urban politics. The first section examines urban political development, with a review of some of the work that situates political analysis in historical perspective. Next, the focus turns to the question of governance, considering political cultural and regime theory approaches to the politics of building and maintaining urban governing coalitions. The fourth section examines the role of leadership in urban politics and the fifth investigates the ways in which race and ethnicity have shaped the contours of urban political alliances and conflict. The sixth portion looks at the manner in which citizens are mobilized in local elections and community organization. The penultimate section looks at the role of the federal system in shaping urban. The final part of the course assesses the impact of globalization on urban politics.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete five assignments for this course. Four will be short analytical essays on given topics. There will also be a take-home final examination at the end of the semester.

Course Material

The readings can be obtained from the Graduate Center library website or Blackboard.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Introduction: What is Urban Politics?

I. Theoretical Perspectives on Urban Governance

Theories of Urban Governance


**Political Culture and Urban Politics**


**Critical Perspectives on Urban Politics**


**II. Urban Politics in Historical Perspective**


III. Race, Ethnicity, and Identity Politics


IV. Citizen Participation

Electoral Politics

Voter Turnout


Determinants of Local Voting Patterns


Cities in National Electoral Politics


Community-Based Political Mobilization


V. Urban Political Leadership


VI. Cities in the Federal System


VII. Urban Politics in the Global Era


