Urban Politics Syllabus

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students the study of urban politics. The first part of the course critically examines the leading theoretical perspectives on urban politics: regime theory, political culture, and political economy. The second portion of the course traces the development of urban political institutions and practices from the early 19th century to the present. This part will assess not only urban political development in the United States, but also the ability of the three perspectives to explain this development. The final section of the course takes stock of the state of urban political analysis, evaluating its strengths and weaknesses.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete three assignments for this course. The first two 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

Most of the readings can be obtained from the Graduate Center library website. However, students will also be required to purchase a packet of readings from the Copy Specialist Too, at 44 East 21st Street (Tel: 212-533-7560).

I. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON URBAN POLITICS


II. URBAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT: 1790-PRESENT

Laying the Foundation of Urban Political Institutions: 1790-1870


Building Modern Political Institutions: 1870-1930


Federalizing Urban Politics: 1930-1980


Urban Politics in the Global Era


III. TAKING STOCK


