

PS 15, Politics in the City
Professor Berry
Spring, 2010

Office Hours Mon. 3:45-5:00
Wed. 9:00-10:15
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“Politics in the City” is a sophomore seminar that offers an overview of contemporary urban life. In a course of just 14 weeks we cannot cover city politics in a comprehensive manner but, nevertheless, we will hit upon most central topics, if only for a week’s time or a single reading. We begin the course analyzing race in the city and the unique issues confronting African Americans and Hispanics. We’ll also examine the growth of cities and metropolitan areas; the competition between cities and their suburbs for industry and jobs; environment and the cities; and political participation and empowerment. Finally, we’ll consider cities of the future, thinking about how the changing nature of the American economy, energy prices, smart growth, and changing demographics and immigration, will change urban government and society.

The following books are required reading for the course:

Thomas O’Connor, *Building a New Boston* (Northeastern University Press, 1993)
Jason DeParle, *American Dream* (Penguin, 2004)
Robert Lang and Jennifer LeFurgy, *Boomburbs* (Brookings 2007)
Matthew Kahn, *Green Cities* (Brookings 2006)
Dennis Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics*, 7th ed. (Longman, 2003)
Robert P. Inman, ed., *Making Cities Work* (Princeton University Press, 2009)

For those enrolled in the class who are majors or prospective majors in Political Science, please note that “Politics in the City” fulfills the departmental requirement for a methods focused course. Also, this course counts toward the African/African American culture option.

The handouts from a book by W. Phillips Shively will be used to guide some of our discussions concerning how social scientists do research. In addition, part of our analysis of each of the other course readings will focus on questions of research design. The primary course requirements are as follows: a group project culminating in a paper analyzing a major issue in city politics (40 percent); a final covering the entire course (50 percent); and class participation (10 percent). Please know that the grade for the paper is the same grade for each member of the team.

This is a small class and I hope to get to know each one of you well. I encourage you to make use of my office hours, Mondays from 3:45 to 5:00 and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:15. If these times are not good for you, please let me know and we’ll arrange to meet at another time. Please feel free to come see me about the class, majoring in political science, pre-law at Tufts, Tufts-in-Washington, or about anything else I might be of assistance on. My phone number and e-mail addresses are ext. 7-3465 and jeffrey.berry@tufts.edu.

January 25: Introduction

February 1: DeParle, *American Dream*

February 8: O'Connor, *Building a New Boston*
[Team assignments for paper made]

February 18 (Thursday): Shively, chap. 6 from *The Craft of Political Research*, handout
Judd and Swanstrom, *City Politics*, chaps. 2-4
[Lottery to choose paper topics]

February 22: Inman, chaps. 7-8
Judd and Swanstrom, chap. 8
In class presentation by Tufts social science librarian Connie Reik

March 1: Inman, chaps. 2, 3, 4, and 11

March 8: Kahn, *Green Cities*
Judd and Swanstrom, chaps. 6-7

March 15: Project groups meet with Professor Berry
Judd and Swanstrom, chaps. 5, 9, 12, 13

March 29: Shively, chaps. 2 and 4 from *The Craft of Political Research*, handout
Judd and Swanstrom, chap. 11

April 5: Lang and LeFurgy, *Boomburbs*
Judd and Swanstrom, chap. 10

April 12: Project groups meet with Professor Berry

April 19: Patriot's Day (no class)

April 26: Berry, Portney, Liss, Simoncelli, and Berger, "Power and Interest Groups in City
Politics," handout
Inman, chaps. 9-10

May 3: Reports from research groups
Papers due in class