

PSC 241/241W, AAS 242/242W, HIS 378/378W, and PSC 530

Fall 2015

Tuesdays, 2:00-4:40

### Urban Change and City Politics

Professor Gerald Gamm

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Office hours: Monday afternoons, 2:00-3:00, and Thursday mornings, 10:00-11:00

Through reading and research, this course examines major issues in urban politics, history, and sociology. This course is a seminar, intended for advanced undergraduates with a substantial background in the social sciences.

All books, or at least those for which we will be reading the bulk of the text, are available for purchase in the campus bookstore. They are also on reserve at the circulation desk of Rush Rhees Library; they are on two-hour reserve, but I can change that on request. (You might also consider online sources, including [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com), for book purchases.) The required books are these—

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: Norton, 1991).

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985).

Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996). **The 2005 edition is also fine.**

Gerald Gamm, *Urban Exodus: Why the Jews Left Boston and the Catholics Stayed* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

William L. Riordon, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall: A Series of Very Plain Talks on Very Practical Politics*, edited with an introduction by Terrence J. McDonald (Boston: Bedford Books, 1994). **Be sure to get this exact edition.**

Robert A. Dahl, *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1961). **Any edition is fine.**

Alejandro Portes and Alex Stepick, *City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993).

Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981).

Alan Ehrenhalt, *The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City* (New York: Knopf, 2012).

All other readings are available at the course website on Blackboard. To access the Blackboard readings off-campus, you will first need to download and run VPN, so that your computer can be viewed as part of the University's network. You can find VPN at <http://rochester.edu/it/vpn/>.

***Academic honesty.** Students must conduct themselves in accordance with the University's Academic Honesty Policy. In this class, students may discuss readings and course material with anyone they choose—including the professor and other students. But, unless all assignments have been submitted, they may not share, receive, or discuss written work for this class, including outlines, plans, and notes for papers, except as specified in the next sentence. They may receive basic help with spelling and grammar from others, including from Writing Fellows, but never substantive help with their written arguments nor help of any sort with their papers from current or former students in this class.*

**TRACK ONE: UPPER-LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENTS (PSC 241W, AAS 242W, HIS 378W)**  
*These requirements also apply to graduate students taking the course for credit.*

Informed participation in weekly discussions (35%). Students are required to attend all scheduled class meetings, having read all assigned material; students who do not attend regularly will not receive credit for the course. At all times, students should listen attentively to others, draw others into class discussions, and take risks by asking questions and throwing out new ideas.

Four short papers (30% total). In 2–3 pages, students should critically evaluate the readings, identifying and analyzing a central question. These papers must be analytical: they should scrutinize the logic and evidence marshaled on behalf of an argument and, where appropriate, analyze the relationship between various arguments. These papers must be short—no paper shorter than 600 words or longer than 1,000 words will be accepted—so get to the main point fast. Papers are due in Professor Gamm's box in Harkness 314 by Tuesday morning at 10:00. No late papers will be accepted without prior permission. Students may write as many as six papers; in calculating the course grade, only the four highest paper grades will be included. *By September 8, students pursuing Track One must submit to Professor Gamm a list of the 4 dates on which they plan to submit their short papers; any date on the initial list may be changed with prior notice.* Track One students must submit four papers to receive credit for the course.

Research paper (35%). The research paper must draw on a substantial body of outside reading and, in most cases, on primary sources as well. The paper should be 10–15 pages in length. The paper is due December 4. *By October 1, Track One students must meet with me and receive approval on their topic and approach.* Track One students must submit a research paper to receive credit for the course.

There is no exam.

**TRACK TWO: NON-UPPER-LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENTS (PSC 241, AAS 242, HIS 378)**

Informed participation in weekly discussions (35%). Students are required to attend all scheduled class meetings, having read all assigned material; students who do not attend regularly will not receive credit for the course. At all times, students should listen attentively to others, draw others into class discussions, and take risks by asking questions and throwing out new ideas.

Seven short papers (65% total). In 2–3 pages, students should critically evaluate the readings, identifying and analyzing a central question. These papers must be analytical: they should scrutinize the logic and evidence marshaled on behalf of an argument and, where appropriate, analyze the relationship between various arguments. These papers must be short—no paper shorter than 600 words or longer than 1,000 words will be accepted—so get to the main point fast. Papers are due in Professor Gamm's box in Harkness 314 by Tuesday morning at 10:00. No late papers will be accepted without prior permission. Students may write papers for any seven of the twelve weeks, *though students must submit papers in at least two of the first four weeks.* Students may write as many as nine papers; in calculating the course grade, only the seven highest paper grades will be included. (This policy does not include students who fail to submit papers in at least two of the first four weeks: in this case, students will receive a “0” for each missing paper, and that paper grade will be included in calculating the course grade.) Track Two students must submit at least seven papers to receive credit for the course.

There is no exam.

Sept. 1 Introduction

Sept. 8 Cities in the Wilderness

Henry Adams, *History of the United States of America during the First Administration of Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1805* (1889; rpt. New York: Library of America, 1986), vol. 1, chap. 1.

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: Norton, 1991), 1-30, 55-147.

*Sept. 15 No class—Rosh Hashanah*

Sept. 22 Industrialization

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*, 148-350.

Sept. 29 Suburbanization

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 1-44, 73-189, 231-282.

*Oct. 6 No class—Fall Break*

Oct. 13 Housing and Jobs

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, 190-230.

Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), 1-152.

Farah Stockman, "Did Busing Slow the City's Desegregation?" *Boston Globe*, 9 August 2015.

Oct. 20 Parishes and Congregations

Gerald Gamm, *Urban Exodus: Why the Jews Left Boston and the Catholics Stayed* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999), 1-221.

Oct. 27 City Neighborhoods

Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*, 181-271.

Gerald Gamm, *Urban Exodus*, 222-287.

Tim Logan, "BC To Purchase 24-Acre Synagogue Site in Newton," *Boston Globe*, 4 August 2015.

Letter from Paul Gershkowitz, president, to the membership of Congregation Mishkan Tefila, 4 August 2015.

Nov. 3 Bosses and Reformers

William L. Riordon, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall: A Series of Very Plain Talks on Very Practical Politics*, edited with an introduction by Terrence J. McDonald (Boston: Bedford Books, 1994), vii-ix, 1-134.

Amy Bridges, "Winning the West to Municipal Reform," *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 27 (1992), 494-518.

Jessica Trounstein, "Dominant Regimes and the Demise of Urban Democracy," *Journal of Politics* 68 (2006), 879-93.

Gerald Gamm and Thad Kousser, "No Strength in Numbers: The Failure of Big-City Bills in American State Legislatures, 1880-2000," *American Political Science Review* 107 (2013), 663-78.

Nov. 10 Community Power

Robert A. Dahl, *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1961), 1-165, 223-28, 305-325.

Nov. 17 Immigration

Alejandro Portes and Alex Stepick, *City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993).

Nov. 24 City Limits

Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981), ix-xiii, 1-65, 109-183, 210-22.

Clarence N. Stone, "City Politics and Economic Development: Political Economy Perspectives," *Journal of Politics* 46 (1984), 286-99.

Clarence N. Stone, "Atlanta: Protest and Elections Are Not Enough," *PS* 19 (1986), 618-25.

Dec. 1 Race and Rights, North and South

Thomas J. Sugrue, "Affirmative Action from Below: Civil Rights, the Building Trades, and the Politics of Racial Equality in the Urban North, 1945-1969," *Journal of American History* 91 (2004), 145-173.

Kevin M. Kruse, "The Politics of Race and Public Space: Desegregation, Privatization, and the Tax Revolt in Atlanta," *Journal of Urban History* 31 (2005), 610-633.

Ryan D. Enos, "What the Demolition of Public Housing Teaches Us about the Impact of Racial Threat on Political Behavior," *American Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming in 2015).

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Case for Reparations," *The Atlantic*, June 2014, 54-71.

Kevin D. Williamson, "The Case against Reparations," *National Review Online*, 24 May 2014.

David Frum, "The Impossibility of Reparations," *The Atlantic*, 3 June 2014.

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Radical Practicality of Reparations," *The Atlantic*, 4 June 2014.

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "Reparations for Ferguson," *The Atlantic*, 18 August 2014.

John Eligon, "An Indelible Black-and-White Line," *New York Times*, 9 August 2015.

Dec. 8 Revitalization and New Challenges

Alan Ehrenhalt, *The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City* (New York: Knopf, 2012).