

Political Science 241/241W and History 341W

Fall 2012

Tuesdays, 2:00-4:40

Urban Change and City Politics

Professor Gerald Gamm
Harkness Hall 319
585-275-8573
gerald.gamm@rochester.edu
Office hours: Thursdays, 11:00-12:30

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'll be reading the bulk of the text, are available for purchase in the campus bookstore. They are also on two-hour reserve at the circulation desk of Rush Rhees Library. (You might also consider online sources, including 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.**

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

Clarence N. Stone, *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1989).

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/>.

TRACK ONE: UPPER-LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENTS (PSC 241W and HIS 341W)

These requirements also apply to graduate students, if any, in the course.

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. Each student will be responsible for initiating class discussion at two class meetings.

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. *By September 11, 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 7. *By October 11, 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: REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT UPPER-LEVEL WRITING (PSC 241)

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. Each student will be responsible for initiating class discussion at two class meetings.

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 fourteen weeks, *though students must submit papers in at least two of the first four weeks.* Students may write more than seven 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. 4 Introduction

Sept. 11 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. 18 **No class—Rosh Hashanah**

Sept. 25 Industrialization

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

Oct. 2 Suburbanization

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

Merlin Chowkwanyun and Jordan Segall, "The Rise of the Majority-Asian Suburb," 24 August 2012, *The Atlantic Cities*.

Merlin Chowkwanyun and Jordan Segall, "How an Exclusive Los Angeles Suburb Lost Its Whiteness," 27 August 2012, *The Atlantic Cities*.

Oct. 9 **No class—Fall Break**

Oct. 16 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.

Oct. 23 Parishes and Congregations

Thomas Schelling, "On the Ecology of Micromotives," 19-64 in Robin Marris, ed., *The Corporate Society* (New York: Wiley, 1974).

Gerald Gamm, *Urban Exodus: Why the Jews Left Boston and the Catholics Stayed* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999), 1-171.

Oct. 30 City Neighborhoods

Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*, 181-271.
Gerald Gamm, *Urban Exodus*, 175-287.

Nov. 6 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.
Adonica Y. Lui, "The Machine and Social Policies: Tammany Hall and the Politics of Public Outdoor Relief, New York City, 1874-1898," *Studies in American Political Development* 9 (1995), 386-403.
Samuel P. Hays, "The Politics of Reform in Municipal Government in the Progressive Era," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 55 (1964), 157-169.
Amy Bridges, "Winning the West to Municipal Reform," *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 27 (1992), 494-518.

Nov. 13 Community Power

Floyd Hunter, *Community Power Structure: A Study of Decision Makers* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1953), 1-13, 60-113, 262-271.
Nelson W. Polsby, *Community Power and Political Theory* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1963), 3-13, 112-121.
Robert A. Dahl, *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1961), 1-86.

Nov. 20 Pluralism

Robert A. Dahl, *Who Governs?*, 89-228, 271-281, 305-325.
Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz, "Two Faces of Power," *American Political Science Review* 56 (1962), 947-952.

Nov. 27 City Limits

Charles M. Tiebout, "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures," *Journal of Political Economy* 64 (1956), 416-424.
Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981), ix-xiii, 1-183, 210-222.

Dec. 4 Urban Regimes

Clarence N. Stone, *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1989).

Dec. 11 North and South

Robert Self, "'To Plan Our Liberation': Black Power and the Politics of Place in Oakland, California, 1965-1977," *Journal of Urban History* 26 (2000), 759-792.

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.

Dennis A. Deslippe, "'Do Whites Have Rights?': White Detroit Policemen and 'Reverse Discrimination' Protests in the 1970s," *Journal of American History* 91 (2004), 932-960.

Matthew D. Lassiter, "The Suburban Origins of 'Color-Blind' Conservatism: Middle-Class Consciousness in the Charlotte Busing Crisis," *Journal of Urban History* 30 (2004), 549-582.

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.