Through reading and research, this course examines major issues in urban politics, history, and sociology. This course is an advanced seminar, open to graduate students as well as 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 Bookstore. All other readings are available on-line at the course website at <http://my.rochester.edu>. To access these 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://www.rochester.edu/its/vpn/gettingconnected.html>.

REQUIREMENTS—TRACK ONE

These requirements apply to all graduate students and to undergraduates receiving “W” credit for 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 other 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 these short papers, students should critically evaluate the readings, identifying and analyzing a central question. (Graduate papers should be 3–5 pages in length. Undergraduate papers should be 2–3 pages in length.) 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. Papers are due in my box in Harkness 314 by Tuesday morning at 10:00. No late papers will be accepted without prior permission. By September 18, students pursuing Track One must submit to me 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 12, 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.
REQUIREMENTS—TRACK TWO

Only undergraduates not receiving “W” credit may select this track.

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 other 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. 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.) Papers are due in my box in Harkness 314 by Tuesday morning at 10:00. No late papers will be accepted without prior permission. 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


Sept. 18  Industrialization


Sept. 25  Suburbanization


Oct. 2  Housing and Jobs


Oct. 9  Parishes and Congregations


Oct. 16  City Neighborhoods

Oct. 23  Race, Violence, and Politics


Oct. 30  Bosses and Reformers


Nov. 6  Community Power


Nov. 13  Pluralism

Nov. 20  City Limits


Nov. 27  Creatures of the State


Dec. 4  Urban Regimes


Dec. 11  North and South