

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

Fall 2020

Tuesdays, 12:30-3:15 pm Eastern Time

Zoom link available on Blackboard

Urban Change and City Politics

Professor Gerald Gamm

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Office hours: Monday afternoons, 2:00-3:00, and Thursday mornings, 9:00-10:00

<https://rochester.zoom.us/j/98833514234>

All books are available for purchase in the campus bookstore. Rush Rhees Library has purchased electronic copies of each book, where possible, but some are not available for electronic purchase. (You might also consider online sources, including abebooks.com and amazon.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). Any edition is fine.

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

Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (New York: Liveright, 2017).

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998).

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

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.

Brian F. Schaffner, Jesse H. Rhodes, and Raymond J. La Raja, *Hometown Inequality: Race, Class, and Representation in American Local Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020).

James Forman, Jr., *Locking up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017).

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/>.

Credit hours. This course follows the College credit hour policy for four-credit courses. This course meets once weekly for three hours. For the fourth credit hour, students will write papers on a regular basis through the semester. This course also includes substantial reading assignments and expectations for class participation.

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, read, 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.

Asynchronous participation. It is my understanding, from having twice asked this question of the class in writing, that all of you can participate fully during the regular class time. If that is not the case, you must let me know immediately so we can make alternate arrangements.

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.

Four short papers (30% total). In 2–3 pages, students should critically evaluate the readings, identifying and analyzing a central question. These papers 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 longer than 1,000 words will be accepted—so get to the main point fast. Papers are due in that week's Blackboard assignment folder by Tuesday morning at 10:00. Students may write as many as six papers; in calculating the course grade, only the four highest paper grades will be included. *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. A draft of the paper is due by November 9, and the final paper is due December 4. *By September 25, Track One students must meet with Professor Gamm and receive approval on their topic and approach. By November 16, students must have set up a half-hour meeting with Professor Gamm to review and discuss the draft.* Track One students must submit a research paper, including an early draft, to receive credit for the course.

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.

Seven short papers (65% total). In 2–3 pages, students should critically evaluate the readings, identifying and analyzing a central question. These papers 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 longer than 1,000 words will be accepted—so get to the main point fast. Papers are due in that week's Blackboard assignment folder by Tuesday morning at 10:00. 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.

Sept. 1 Introduction: Race and the American City

Walt Whitman, "Mannahatta."

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

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), 1-147.

Sept. 15 Industry and the Rural Hinterland

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*, 148-309.

Andrew Needham and Allen Dieterich-Ward, "Beyond the Metropolis: Metropolitan Growth and Regional Transformation in Postwar America," *Journal of Urban History* 35 (2009), 943-69.

Sept. 22 Suburbs

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

Sept. 29 Housing

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), 1-88, 179-258.

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* 60 (2016), 123-42.

Oct. 6 Neighborhoods

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

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.

Jamie Ducharme, “These Maps Show How Drastically COVID-19 Risk Varies by Neighborhood,” *Time*, 22 July 2020.

Oct. 13 Segregation

Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (New York: Liveright, 2017).

City Roots Community Land Trust and the Yale Environmental Protection Clinic, “Confronting Racial Covenants: How They Segregated Monroe County and What To Do About Them (2020).

Donald J. Trump and Ben Carson, “We’ll Protect America’s Suburbs,” *Wall Street Journal*, 16 Aug. 2020.

Oct. 20 Jobs

Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*, 89-177.

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), 145-73.

Dennis A. Deslippe, “‘Do Whites Have Rights?’: White Detroit Policemen and ‘Reverse Discrimination’ Protests in the 1970s,” *Journal of American History* 91 (2004), 932-60.

George Packer, “Head of the Class: How Donald Trump Is Winning Over the White Working Class,” *The New Yorker*, 16 May 2016.

Oct. 27 Whiteness

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998).

Nov. 3 Immigrants

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

Nov. 10 Politics

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.

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.

J. Eric Oliver, with Shang E. Ha and Zachary Callen, "Size, Scope, and Bias: What Differentiates Local Electoral Politics?" chap. 1 in *Local Elections and the Politics of Small-Scale Democracy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012).

Nov. 17 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. 24 Class

Brian F. Schaffner, Jesse H. Rhodes, and Raymond J. La Raja, *Hometown Inequality: Race, Class, and Representation in American Local Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020).

Dec. 1 Incarceration

James Forman, Jr., *Locking up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017).

Dec. 8 Race

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.

Matthew D. Lassiter, "Impossible Criminals: The Suburban Imperatives of America's War on Drugs," *Journal of American History* 102 (2015), 126-40.

Cathy J. Cohen and Michael C. Dawson, "Neighborhood Poverty and African American Politics," *American Political Science Review* 87 (1993), 286-302.

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

The Editorial Board, "The Cities We Need," *New York Times*, 11 May 2020.

Kevin Quealy, "The Richest Neighborhoods Emptied Out Most as Coronavirus Hit New York City," *New York Times*, 15 May 2020.