

Bulletin Description

Structure, activities, and problems of contemporary urban government. Changing nature of federal, state, regional, and local relationships. Nature of decision-making process in an urban political environment. New York metropolitan area.

Requirements

Class participation and collaboration between students is the cornerstone of any successful course; therefore students will be required to attend all class meetings and to keep up with the readings. Students who arrive more than ten minutes late to classes will be counted absent for the day. All cell phones must be turned off. The use of recorders, cell phones, and cameras is prohibited.

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. In addition students will be asked to write 3 three-page critical reviews of specific course readings. No late papers will be accepted and all assignments must be completed in order for students to receive a passing grade in the course. "Incomplete" grades will only be awarded with written verification of a medical or personal emergency.

Required Books

John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch, Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place Twentieth Anniversary Edition) (2007)
Sharon Zukin, Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places (2010)
Tom Agnotti: New York for Sale: Community Planning Confronts Global Real Estate (2011)
Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom, Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-First Century Third Edition (2014)
Peter Moskowitz, How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for the Neighborhood (2017)

Grading

Final course grades will be based on the following formula:

3-page critical reviews of course readings:	30% (3 reviews/10% each)
Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	30%
Class Attendance/ Participation:	15%

CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity

"The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation."

Note from the Center for Student Disability Services

“In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.”

Course Outline

Aug 27: Studying Urban Government and Politics

Aug. 29: Kevin Baker, “The Death of a Once Great City” Harper’s Magazine (July 2018)
<https://harpers.org/archive/2018/07/the-death-of-new-york-city-gentrification/>

Part I. City as Growth Machine

Sept. 3: John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch, Urban Fortunes, “The Social Construction of Cities” and “Places as Commodities,” pp. 1-49.

Sept. 5: No Class

Sept. 10: John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch, Urban Fortunes, “The City as a Growth Machine,” pp. 50-98.

Sept 12: John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch, Urban Fortunes, “Homes: Exchange and Sentiment in the Neighborhood,” pp. 99-146.

Sept. 17: John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch, Urban Fortunes, “How Government Matters,” pp. 147-199.

Sept. 19: John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch, Urban Fortunes, “The Dependent Future.” pp. 248-296.

Sept. 24: John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch, Urban Fortunes, “Preface to the Twentieth Anniversary Edition,” pp. vvi-xxix.

Due: 3-page critical review of John R. Logan and Harvey L. Molotch, Urban Fortunes

Part II. New York City as Case Study

Sept. 26: Tom Agnotti, New York for Sale, “The Real Estate Capital of the World,” pp. 37-80.

Oct. 1: No Class

- Oct. 3: Samuel Stein, Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State, “New York’s Bipartisan Consensus,” (2019), pp. 79-115 (handout)
- Oct. 8: No Class
- Oct. 10: Sharon Zukin, Naked City, “Union Square and the Paradox of Public Space,” pp. 125-158.
- Oct. 15: Sharon Zukin, Naked City, “How Brooklyn Became Cool,” pp. 35-62.
- Oct. 17: Sharon Zukin, Naked City, “Why Harlem is Not a Ghetto,” pp. 63-94.
- Oct. 22: Tom Agnotti, New York for Sale, “From Protest to Community Plan,” and “Making Plans Official,” pp. 113-130 and 153-178.
- Oct. 24: Tom Agnotti, New York for Sale, “Community Planning for the Few,” pp. 179-224.
- Oct. 25: Exam Review
- Oct. 30: Midterm Exam

Part III. Looking Beyond City Politics

- Nov. 5: Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom, Place Matters, “Preface,” “The Facts of Economic Segregation and Sprawl,” and “The Costs of Economic Segregation and Sprawl,” pp. xi-xvii and 29-58.
- Nov. 7: Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom, Place Matters, “The Costs of Economic Segregation and Sprawl,” pp. 59-102.
- Nov. 12: Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom, Place Matters, “The Roads Not Taken: How Government Policies Promote Economic Segregation and Suburban Sprawl,” and “From FDR to Obama: A Brief History of Federal Urban Policy,” pp. 103-174.
- Nov. 14: Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom, Place Matters, “Urban Politics Matter: Liberal, Progressive, and Conservative Cities,” pp. 192-236.
- Nov. 19: Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom, Place Matters, “Metropolicies for the Twenty-First Century” and “Crossing the City Line: A Metropolitcs for the Twenty-First Century,” pp. 270-332.
- Nov. 21: revisiting Urban Fortunes in light of Place Matters
 Due: 3-page critical review of Peter Dreier et al, Place Matters.

Part IV. Case Studies in Gentrification

- Nov. 26: Peter Moskowitz, How to Kill a City, “Introduction” and “Part I: New Orleans: Hanging On, How Gentrification Works, and Destroy to Rebuild.”
- Nov. 28: No Class
- Dec. 3: Peter Moskowitz, How to Kill a City, “Part III: San Francisco: The Gentrified City, Growth Machine, and The New Geography of Inequality.”
- Dec. 5: Peter Moskowitz, How to Kill a City, “Part IV: New York: An Elegy, New York is not Meant for People, Fight Back.”
- Dec: 10: Peter Moskowitz, How to Kill a City, “Conclusion: Toward an Un-Gentrified Future.”
- Dec. 12: Some Conclusions/ Final Exam Review
Due: 3-page critical review of Peter Moskowitz, How to Kill a City