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232 Bay State Road, Room 222
Office Hours Mondays 1-3

PO 517. Urban Politics and Policy.

Fall 2014, Mondays 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, 312B

This course explores the impact of American urban and national politics on the implementation of local policy. We explore a variety of topics, including deindustrialization, white flight, housing policy, schools, incarceration, and regionalism. The course begins by outlining the historical, economic, and demographic constraints that shape cities' policy-making capacities. We then look to understand the effects of these constraints on the contemporary implementation of urban policies, focusing our discussion on federal urban policies and policies within the purview of local officials.

In addition to completing the readings for each week, students are expected to participate actively in seminar discussions and activities. In addition, they will complete a 4-5 page city case study, a 3-page final paper proposal, a 5-7 minute oral presentation on their final paper, and a 12-15 page final paper.

Course Requirements

4-5 Page City Case Study

The first assignment for this course will be a 4-5 page (double-spaced, 12 pt font, with 1-inch margins) paper due to me by e-mail (kleinst@bu.edu) on October 13 at 9 AM. This case study will explore how trends discussed in class have shaped the demography of a metropolitan area of each student's choosing. The instructor must approve the student's choice of a city case study in advance, and it cannot be the city of Boston (which will be the subject of all of your final papers). We will discuss helpful data sources for this paper in class on September 22.

12-15 Page Policy Paper (including 3-Page Policy Proposal and 5-7 Minute Oral Presentation)

The major assignment for this course will be a policy case study detailing the implementation of a policy of the student's choosing in the Boston metropolitan area. Students will structure this paper as if it is a recommendation to city/regional leaders or state/federal officials about the policy under study. The

paper will cover: (1) A *brief* background on the policy and region under study; (2) An examination of how the constraints we have studied in class affect the implementation of this policy; and (3) Recommendations on strategies to render the implementation of the policy more effective, based on the constraints highlighted in (2). Students will be expected to use both secondary and primary sources in completing this paper. It will be due December 14 at 9 PM. Students will also be required to complete a 5-7 minute oral presentation on their findings and recommendations in the final class (December 8).

To ensure the timely completion of this project, students will turn in a 3-page proposal on October 27 at 9 PM summarizing their (1) topic; (2) planned sources, and; (3) preliminary findings.

Reading Responses

Over the course of the semester, students are required to submit *two* 2-page reading responses (double-spaced with one-inch margins) by midnight on the Sunday before the seminar meets. Reading responses should not simply be a summary of the reading. Instead, a reading response should present a clear argument (with an easily identifiable thesis statement) that does one of two things: (1) compares and contrasts two (or more) readings from the same week; (2) compares and contrasts two (or more) readings from different weeks.

Participation

Regular attendance at seminar and active and informed participation are central to your and your classmates' learning. Students are required to do the reading and participate actively in class.

In addition, most classes will feature an in-class, group activity (e.g, a debate). Participation in these activities will count towards each student's participation grade

Grading

Participation	15%
Reading Responses	15%
City Case Study	25%
Final Policy Proposal, Paper, and Presentation	45%

September 8. Introduction. What can cities do?

“Cities Advance Their Fight Against Rising Inequality.” Annie Lowrey. *New York Times*. April 6, 2014

“De Blasio Encounters Rising Friction Over Liberal Expectations.” Michael M. Grynbaum. *New York Times*

I. The Political Context of the City

September 15. The Limited City? Horizontal and Vertical Constraints

Paul Peterson, *City Limits*, Chapters 2, 3

Dreier et al., *Place Matters*, Chapter 5

Einstein and Kogan. 2014. “Pushing the City Limits: Policy Responsiveness in Municipal Government.”

September 22. Federal Urban Policy and the Limited City

Rae, Chapter 8

Dreier et al., *Place Matters*, Chapter 4

Brooks and Phillips. 2010. “An institutional explanation for the stickiness of federal grants.” *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*

Class Demo on Using the Census Website.

September 29. Racial Threat, Coalition-Building, and Electoral Constraints

Claire Kim, *Bitter Fruit*, Chapter 4

Daniel Hopkins. 2010. “Politicized Places: Explaining Where and When Immigrants Provoke Local Opposition.” *American Political Science Review*.

Karen Kaufmann, *The Urban Vote*, Chapter 5

Enos, Ryan. 2014. “Causal effect of intergroup contact on exclusionary attitudes.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States*.

October 6. Urban-Suburban Divide

Chen and Rodden. 2012. “Unintentional gerrymandering: Political geography and electoral bias in legislatures.”

Weir et al. 2005. “The Calculus of Coalitions: Cities, Suburbs, and the Metropolitan Agenda.” *Urban Affairs Review*.

Dreier et al., *Place Matters*, Chapter 6

II. Policy Implementation in the City.

October 13. Columbus Day.

October 14. Targeting Policy: Understanding Level of Analysis.

Sampson, *Great American City*, Chapters 6, 10

Rusk, *Inside Game Outside Game*, Chapters 2, 7

City case study due.

October 20. Policy in Boston

Shadow Campus series in *Boston Globe* (all three parts):

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/specials/shadow-campus>

Jenny Schuetz. 2008. "Guarding the Town Walls: Mechanisms and Motives for Restricting Multifamily Housing in Massachusetts"

"On the Right Track: Meeting Greater Boston's Land Use Challenges" Urban Land Institute Boston District Council

A. Within-City Policies: The Case of Redistribution

October 27. When Do Cities Redistribute?

Jason Rugh and Jessica Trounstein. 2011. "The Provision of Local Public Goods in Diverse Communities: Analyzing Municipal Bond Elections."

Hopkins, Daniel J. 2009. "The Diversity Discount: When Increasing Ethnic and Racial Diversity Prevents Tax Increases." *Journal of Politics*.

Einstein, Katherine Levine and David M. Glick. 2014. "Cities Inequality and Redistribution: Evidence from a Survey of Mayors."

Final Paper Proposal Due

November 3. Redistribution at the Federal Level: The Case of Public Housing Policy

Robert Sampson. 2008. "Moving to Inequality: Neighborhood Effects and Experiments Meet Social Structure." *American Journal of Sociology*. 114(1): 189-223.

Jeffrey Kling, Jeffrey Liebman, and Lawrence Katz. 2007. "Experimental Analysis of Neighborhood Effects." *Econometrica* 75(1): 83-119.

Gay, Claudine. 2012. "Moving to Opportunity: The Political Effects of a Housing Mobility Experiment." *Urban Affairs Review*.

Enos, Ryan. "What the Demolition of Public Housing Teaches Us About the Impact of Racial Threat on Political Behavior." *American Journal of Political Science*. Forthcoming.

B. Targeting Jurisdictions

November 10. School Case Study

Dillon, Sam. 2011. "Merger of Memphis and County School Districts Revives Race and Class Challenges." *New York Times*.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/06/education/merger-of-memphis-and-county-school-districts-revives-challenges.html?pagewanted=all>

*Kahlenberg, Richard D. "Socioeconomic School Integration." *North Carolina Law Review* 1545 (2006-2007)

*Caroline M. Hoxby. 2003. "School Choice and school competition: Evidence from the United States." *Swedish Economic Policy Review*.

Read *Milliken V. Bradley* opinion (Burger), concurrence (Stewart), and three dissents by Douglas, White, and Marshall:

http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0418_0717_ZD.html

Read *San Antonio v. Rodriguez* opinion (Powell) and dissent (Brennan):

http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0411_0001_ZS.html

November 17. Sustainability

Portney, Kent E. and Jeffrey M. Berry. 2010. "Participation and the Pursuit of Sustainability in U.S. Cities." *Urban Affairs Review*

Weir, Margaret. 2009. "Collaboration is Not Enough: Virtuous Cycles of Reform in Transportation Policy." *Urban Affairs Review*

Susan Opp and Kyle Saunders. 2013. "Pillar Talk: Local Sustainability Initiatives and Policies in the United States—Evidence of the 'Three E's': Economic Development, Environmental Protection, and Social Equity." *Urban Affairs Review*

Joseph Stromberg. "Should bikes and cars share the same road and the same rules?"

C. State and Federal Policies with Disproportionate Urban Impacts

November 24. Incarceration

Bruce Western. "Reentry: Reversing Mass Imprisonment." July/August 2008. *Boston Review*. <http://www.bostonreview.net/BR33.4/western.php>

Todd Clear, *Imprisoning Communities*, Chapter 6

Vesla M. Weaver and Amy Lerman. 2010. "Political Consequences of the Carceral State." *American Political Science Review*.

Devah Pager. 2003. "The Mark of a Criminal Record."

December 1. Family Policy

Sara McLanahan. 2004. "Diverging Destinies: How Are Children Faring Under the Second Demographic Transition." *Demography* 41: 607-627

Kathryn Edin and Maria Kerfalas. 2005. *Promises I can Keep*, Chapters 2, 3, 6, Conclusion

December 8. Presentation of Final Projects