

PLS/URS 321 CITY POLITICS (4cr)

Fall 1999

11:00-12:15 Tuesday & Thursday

72 Rike Hall

Instructors: Jay D. Gatrell, Ph.D **Course Website:** <http://www.wright.edu/~jay.gatrell>
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Office Hours: T 10-10:45, AM 12:30-1:30PM, TH 9:30-10:45AM (Other Hours can be arranged)

Purpose & Objective: The purpose of this course and its main objective is to introduce students to fundamental principles and structure of governance in a metropolitan region. In the process, themes of competition, conflict, and power will be discussed. Finally, the course has been structured to raise student awareness, in general, with respect to the form and function of local governments.

Readings:

- Banfield, E. and Wilson, J.** 1963. *City Politics*. Cambridge: Harvard, Ch. 11, pp. 138-150.
Cox, K. 1992. *State, Society, & Territory: Political Geographies of the American City, Part I*, unpublished manuscript, Department of Geography, The Ohio State University, Ch 1 & 8 (**NOT TO BE CITED**).
Cox, K. 1995. Globalisation, competition, and the politics of local economic development. *Urban Studies* 32:213-224.
Cox, K. and Mair, A. 1988. Locality and community in the politics of local economic development. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 88:307-325.
Eisinger, P. 1998. City Politics in an era of federal devolution. *Urban Affairs Review* 33(3):308-325.
Wright, J. Response to Eisinger.
Wood, R. Response to Eisinger.
Greer, S. 1962. *Governing the Metropolis*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, Ch. 3-5, pp. 45-104.
Pate, J. 1954. *Local Government and Administration*. New York: American Book Co., Ch. 2. 35-56., Ch. 8-11, pp. 175-242.
Sacks, P. 1976. *The Donegal Mafia*. New Haven: Yale, Ch. 1, pp. 1-15.
Moscow, W. 1971. *The Last of the Big Time Bosses*. NY: Stein/Day, Ch. 1., pp. 11-30.

Choice of these Non-Local Newspapers Available On-Line (e.g., Metro or Local Sections):

- (1) Large Market Metropolitan Papers
New York Times, Washington Times, Detroit Free Press
- (2) Large Market Suburban Papers
Long Island Voice (Suffolk Co., NY), *Metro Herald* (Alexandria, VA),
Montgomery Journal (Rockville, MD), *Observer Eccentric* (Wayne Co., MI)

Course Requirements:

1. Students are responsible for all lecture, assigned readings, & class participation. For the purposes of evaluation, attendance will be taken randomly 6 times during the quarter. You will **not** be penalized for 1 absence. (**5X2=10 Points**).
2. Students will be responsible for attending one (1) local city council meeting during the quarter and preparing a 3-4 page report concerning the current (*and previous*) charters, type of representation, general configuration of authority (e.g., flowchart), and the basic agenda of the meeting with special attention paid to citizen participation. These reports are to look professional--word processing is highly recommended. (**30 Points**)

3. Students will be responsible for preparing three (3) newspaper reports, approximately 1 to 2 pages, concerning contemporaneous city politics and local conflicts in each of the following contexts: (a.) central city issues (e.g., NYT), (b) suburban issues (e.g., LIV), (c) conflicts between central city & suburban governments (e.g., NYT & LIV). These reports will include discussions of the participants, the debates, any relevant historical context, and outcome (if possible). These reports are to look professional and must contain *FULL CITATIONS* (MLA, APA, or Chicago Styles) **(3x10=30 points)**
4. A final essay exam will be given. This essay will be cumulative. Style, Sentence Construction, & Spelling **DO COUNT**. You will have your choice of 2 out of 5 essay questions **(2x15=30 points)**.
5. The grading scale is as follows:

A	90-100%	
B	79-89%	
C	69-78%	
D	60-68%	Note: All averages will be rounded up, for example: 78.2=79, 58.1=59
6. Because this is an upper division course, it is essential that you complete all of the assigned readings **PRIOR** to attending class.
7. Students are responsible for maintaining academic integrity

Additional Information

1. Calculators, Dictionaries, or other electronic or non-electronic aids will **NOT** be permitted
2. Graded materials will be discarded after 1 quarter (or complete summer term). However, grade sheets and spreadsheets (if applicable) will be maintained.
3. All items, rules, and codes of conduct detailed in the student and faculty handbooks apply.

WSU is committed to the ideals and principles of social justice. I agree with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. WSU does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further a positive learning environment within the WSU community in this class will be greatly appreciated and given the utmost consideration. Additionally, if you have any special needs please do not hesitate to bring those needs to my attention.

NOTE: Course Outline Subject to Change

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Readings</i>
TH 9-16	Course Outline	
 <i>Historical & Legal Context: The City, Politics, & Change</i>		
T 9-21	Urban/Town Form: Historical Perspective	In-Class Hand-Outs
TH 9-23	Local Government: Legal Basis/Home Rule	Ch. 2 Pate
T 9-28	Urban Politics: Cronyism to Commission	Sacks/Banfield & Wilson/ Moscow
TH 9-30	Urban Politics Continued <i>Movie American Experience</i>	
 <i>Administration & Organization</i>		
T 10-5	Political Structures & Models of Local Gov't **Charter Models**	Ch. 8-10 Pate
TH 10-7	Saks 5 th Avenue or K-Mart: Service Provision Education, Housing, Fire/Police, Sanitation, Health Incarceration, Parks/Rec, Transit/Roads, Planning/Codes, Water/Sewer, Misc. Services/Utilities	Ch 11 Pate

T 10-12	Central City v. Suburb	Greer Ch 3-5
TH 10-14	Service Provision: Questions of Scale, Jurisdictional Overlap, Duplication of Services, & Options	
T 10-19	The Election Process & It's Implications	
TH 10-21	No Class (This class is not cancelled per se...you are required to use the additional time to attend public meetings which may be held during lunch and the optional UC Conference)	

***CINCINATTI MINI-CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL THEORY
SATURDAY 10-23***

T 10-26	Open Discussion of Meetings attended by Students <u>MTG. REPORT DUE</u>
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The Metropolis: Scale, Conflict, & the Politics of Local Economic Development

T 10-28	Politics of Local Economic Development	Cox (1995) Cox & Mair
T 11-2	Discussion of Planning v. Economic Development	Smith Cox Ch. 1 & 8
TH 11-4	Guest Lecture: TBA	
T 11-9	No Class-General Faculty Mtg.	
TH 11-11	<i>No Class Holiday</i>	

T 11-16	Elections <u>ALL ARTICLE REPORTS ARE DUE.</u>
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TH 11-18	Student Presentation of their choice of 1 of the 3 Newspaper Reports	
T 11-23	The Future of City Politics	Eisinger Article & Responses

11-29/12/4 Exam Week (see official exam schedule in course bulletin)