

DRAFT SYLLABUS. Subject to change. Complete syllabus will be submitted before classes begin on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Urban Affairs and Planning  
Hunter College

Political Economy of the City  
Spring 2008  
Mondays: 3:15 – 5:25

Prof. Brian Sahd  
Office hours  
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### **Course Description**

The course will explore the framework in which urban policy and development occurs in US urban areas. We will explore the ‘anatomy’ of the city, that is, to what extent is the physical shape of the city influenced by the interaction between the public and private sectors. Cities, of course, are embedded in larger economic and political settings. Indeed, some would argue that the forces generated in this larger context tend to overwhelm the local political/economic theatre. To this end, the course will examine the extent to which greater national and international political and economic forces impact the shape of cities. The investigation of these dynamics will lead to discussions of recent major development projects occurring in ‘The’ city, New York City. In the end the student will learn new ways of analyzing how urban policy is formulated and implemented in the modern era.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Attendance: Every student is required to attend all classes. If a student is absent from more than one class, his or her grade will be affected. This requirement will account for 25% of the grade.
2. Participation: Every student is required and expected to participate in class. The class will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. Participating on the discussions is critical to getting the most out of the class. This requirement will account for 25% of the grade.
3. Final Paper: Each student will be required to write a 10-15 page paper. The paper should focus on a topic covered during the class that was of particular interest. Each student must have an approved paper topic by the week of April 14<sup>th</sup>, just before the mid term break. The paper is due on May 19<sup>th</sup>. This requirement will account for 50% of the grade.

### **Reading Materials (subject to change)**

The following books are required and are available through Hunter College Bookstore.

Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, City Politics: the political economy of urban America. Sixth Edition. New York: Person Longman. 2008.

Peter Dreier, John Mollenkopf and Todd Swanstrom, Place Matters: metropolitics for the twenty-first century. Second Edition. University Press of Kansas, 2004.

The remaining reading materials for the course to be identified.

### **Course Outline and Schedule of Readings**

- January 28<sup>th</sup>: Introduction and Overview
- February 4<sup>th</sup>: Historical Look at Urban Growth in the US  
Selected chapters from Crabgrass Frontier, Kenneth Jackson. To be distributed during the first class on January 28<sup>th</sup>.  
City Politics, Chapter 2
- February 11<sup>th</sup>: Social and Cultural Life and the Design of Cities.  
Elected chapters from Death and Life of Great American Cities, Jane Jacobs and Conscience of the Eye, Richard Sennett. To be distributed.  
City Politics, Chapter 13  
Robyn S. Turner. "The Politics of Design and Development in Postmodern Downtowns", in Journal of Urban Affairs. 2002.
- February 18<sup>th</sup>: No Class, School Closed
- February 25<sup>th</sup>: Economic Issues. Guest Speaker Kenneth Elgarten, Managing Director Research and Strategy, Credit Swisse.  
Readings To Be Announced
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Federal, State and City Influences  
City Politics, Chapters 6 and 12  
Place Matters. Chapter 5  
Douglas Rae. "Making Life Work in Crowded Places". In Urban Affairs, January 2006.  
Mark. L. Cypler. "Eminent Domain", in Urban Affairs. 2003
- March 10<sup>th</sup>: Effects of Global Forces  
City Politics, Chapters 14 and 15  
Eugene McCann. "Urban Political Economy Beyond Global Cities", in Urban Studies. November 2004
- March 17<sup>th</sup>: Race and Ethnicity  
City Politics, Chapters 5, 7 and 9
- March 24<sup>th</sup>: No Class, School Closed
- March 31<sup>st</sup>: Civic and Community Involvement

## Readings To Be Announced

- April 7<sup>th</sup>: The Politics of Development  
City Politics, Part I
- April 14<sup>th</sup>: Tentative Site Visit to Atlantic Yards Development Project  
Paper Topics Due
- April 21<sup>st</sup>: No Class, Spring Break
- April 28<sup>th</sup>: Sprawl, Regionalism and the New Urbanism. Guest Speaker Robert Pirani, Regional Planning Association.  
Place Matters. Chapters 4 and 6  
City Politics, Chapter 11
- May 5<sup>th</sup>: Tentative Site Visit to MTA development site on the West Side of Manhattan.
- May 12<sup>th</sup>: Wrap-up and review  
Place Matters. Chapters 7 and 8

**Additional Readings will be announced at least one week before they will be discussed.**