Political Science 241/530 and History 384w/484
Spring 2002
Tuesdays, 2:00–4:40

Urban Change and City Politics

Professor Gerald Gamm
Harkness 331
275–8573
gerald.gamm@rochester.edu
Office hours: Monday afternoons, 1:30–2:45, and Thursday mornings, 10:00–11:30

Through reading and research, this course examines major issues in urban politics, history, and sociology. This course is an advanced seminar, open to graduate students as well as advanced undergraduates with a substantial background in the social sciences.

REQUIREMENTS—TRACK ONE
These requirements apply to all graduate students. Undergraduates may select either Track One or Track Two.

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. Students are encouraged to listen attentively to others, to draw others into class discussions, and to take risks by asking questions and throwing out new ideas.

Four short papers (35% total). In these short papers, students should critically evaluate the readings, identifying and analyzing a central question. (Graduate papers should be 3–5 pages in length. Undergraduate papers should be 2–3 pages in length.) These papers must be analytical: they should scrutinize the logic and evidence marshaled on behalf of an argument and, where appropriate, analyze the relationship between various arguments. Papers are due in my box in Harkness 314 by Tuesday morning at 10:00. No late papers will be accepted without prior permission. By February 1, students pursuing Track One must submit to me 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 sufficient prior notice.

Research prospectus (30%). This prospectus may be an extension of one of the four short papers or it may be a separate project. The prospectus should identify a modest research question, identify existing literature bearing on that question, and offer a strategy for collecting and analyzing data that bear on that question. A review of secondary literature is not sufficient; students must locate primary sources and begin some rough examination of data in order to lay out an acceptable research agenda. The prospectus should be 10–15 pages in length. The prospectus is due May 3; incompletes are strongly discouraged and will not be given without good cause. By February 28, Track One students must meet with me and receive approval on their topic and approach; undergraduates who have not done so move automatically into Track Two.

There is no exam.
REQUIREMENTS—TRACK TWO

Only undergraduates may select this track.

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. Students are encouraged to listen attentively to others, to draw others into class discussions, and to take risks by asking questions and throwing out new ideas.

Seven short papers (65% total). In 2–3 pages, students should critically evaluate the readings, identifying and analyzing a central question. These papers must be analytical: they 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 shorter than 600 words or longer than 1,000 words will be accepted—so get to the main point fast. Students may write papers for any seven of the thirteen weeks, though students must submit papers in at least two of the first four weeks. Students may write more than seven 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.) Papers are due in my box in Harkness 314 by Tuesday morning at 10:00. No late papers will be accepted without prior permission. Track Two students must submit at least seven papers to receive credit for the course.

There is no exam.
Jan. 22  Introduction

Jan. 29  Bosses and Reformers


Feb. 5  The Segmented City


Feb. 12  Structure, Politics, and Policy


Feb. 19  Regime Politics

Feb. 26  City Services


Mar. 5  City Limits


Mar. 19  Creatures of the State


Mar. 26  The Great Migration and Federal Policy


Apr. 2 Jobs


Apr. 9 Suburbs


Apr. 16 Parishes and Congregations


Apr. 23 Neighborhoods

Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, chaps. 7–9, conclusion.
Gamm, *Urban Exodus*, chaps. 8–11, epilogue.

Apr. 30 Participation