

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 300: URBAN POLITICS  
SPRING, 2017**

**Instructor:** Dr. Constance A. Mixon (Connie)  
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**Phone:** 630-617-3569

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays/Thursdays: 2:30PM-4:00PM

**Class Meeting Times & Location:** Tuesdays & Thursdays  
12:50 – 2:20PM  
Circle Hall 012

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OVERVIEW**

This course is an introduction to Urban Politics in the United States. The vast majority of Americans (over 80%) now live in or around urban areas. The social, economic, governmental, and political questions facing the United States today are by and large, problems of cities and their surrounding metropolitan regions. Throughout this course, we will focus on the problems and achievements of metropolitan areas, including suburbs as well as cities. Socioeconomic issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, poverty, wealth, and power will be highlighted.

Having evolved over the years, into a distinct mixture of classes, races, and ethnicities, the Chicago metropolitan region offers a unique perspective on many of today's challenging urban problems. While addressing issues common to most metropolitan areas, our focus will be Chicago. This course is meant to be an introduction to the study of politics in a very political city.

Students will be asked to think critically and analytically about urban issues and to discuss political and social problems in a productive manner, while understanding the interconnected nature of American metropolitan areas. Using the Chicago metropolitan region as a laboratory, we will consider the current state of urbanization and make predictions about the future of urban America.

This course is designed to be exciting, demanding, and controversial. Course material may be examined through a combination of lectures, films, outside speakers, and discussion. Current political events will be frequent topics of discussion. Students are expected to read a Chicago newspaper

(SunTimes, Tribune, Crains) daily. Students are required to participate in class discussions on a regular basis. The more you share your ideas and engage with others, the better the course will be for all of us! I may call on anyone at any time to comment on the readings and course concepts. Quizzes covering the assigned material may occur at any point during the semester. It is important for students to be prepared to participate at all times.

### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- *Outline the historical development and expansion of urbanization in the United States;*
- *Analyze and critically evaluate the problems and issues confronting metropolitan areas;*
- *Apply course concepts and theories to real world events and challenges;*
- *Understand the complexity and diversity of the urban environment;*
- *Demonstrate appreciation for urban populations and the social justice issues many of these populations face; and*
- *Explain how and why urban areas are shaped by and integrated within an interdependent global system.*

### **DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES APPLICABLE TO THIS COURSE**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- *Explain and evaluate the values, structures, institutions, processes, behaviors and policies of politics in the United States;*
- *Analyze and formulate effective oral and written argumentation utilizing scholarly approaches in political science; and*
- *Demonstrate knowledge and skills necessary for active citizenship.*

### **ELMHURST COLLEGE INTEGRATED CURRICULUM**

This course fulfills the Social and Political Analysis Area of Knowledge (AoK). Courses in this category examine the social, political, economic and cultural institutions that shape the environments of individuals and groups. Students will study how power relationships within and among these institutions affect various subgroups in the population. Paradigms, theories and methodologies used in this analysis will be examined, utilized and evaluated.

Objectives:

- *Describe social, political, economic and cultural institutions and processes, the relationships between them, and their impact on individuals and groups;*
- *Describe how differences of class, race, ethnicity and gender are related to these institutions and their outcomes;*
- *Identify, use, and evaluate the paradigms, theories and methodologies which describe and explain social, political, economic, and cultural institutions and their outcomes; and*
- *Identify means through which individuals can affect change in social, political, economic or cultural institutions.*

This course additionally fulfills the Engaging Social Responsibility tag. As such, students completing this course will be able to:

- *Construct a view of citizenship and its responsibilities in diverse democratic societies and the global community;*
- *Articulate their own values and demonstrate how these values reflect or respond to society;*

- *Demonstrate knowledge of varied responses to issues of social justice; and*
- *Respond to civic, service, or social justice issues.*

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2015. *Between the World and Me*. Penguin/Random House.
2. Judd, Dennis R. and Todd Swanstrom. 2015. *City Politics: 9<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Routledge.
3. Royko, Mike. 1976. *Boss: Richard J. Daley of Chicago*. Plume Penguin Books.
4. Simpson, Dick, Constance A. Mixon, and Melissa Mouritsen Zmuda, eds. 2016. *Twenty-First Century Chicago – 2<sup>nd</sup> REVISED EDITION*. Cognella Publishing.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Midterm Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%
Chicago Field Project	30%
Quizzes, Attendance, Participation	10%
Extra Credit	3%

**A standard grading scale will be employed:**

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
94-100%	A	77-79%	C+
90-93%	A-	74-76%	C
87-89%	B+	70-73%	C-
84-86%	B	60-69%	D
80-83%	B-	0-59%	F

**BLACKBOARD (Bb):** This course will utilize an Elmhurst College Blackboard (Bb) site. Supplemental course readings and copies of PowerPoint slides presented in class will be posted on this site. Please check the course Blackboard (Bb) site several times each week for course announcements and updates. If you have questions regarding how to access the Blackboard (Bb) site, please see the course instructor.

**EXAMINATIONS:** A midterm and final examination are required. Each examination may be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Examinations will cover class discussions, readings, presentations, and films. Keep in mind that some material from the readings may not be addressed in class lectures; however, you are still responsible for this information. All exams will be taken in class and will be closed book, without notes. Study guides will be posted on blackboard one week prior to each exam. **\*THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP EXAMS.**

**QUIZZES:** Quizzes covering assigned readings, films, presentations, and course discussions may occur at any point during the semester – with or without prior notice. Therefore, it is important that you have read and understand the assigned readings prior to attending class. **\*THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP QUIZZES.**

**\*Please note:** Examinations and quizzes are not collaborative. You are not allowed to talk with any of your peers or look at anyone’s exam or quiz during testing. You are responsible for understanding and

obeying these and all other college policies on academic honesty. Failure to obey these guidelines may result in a failing grade in the class and college disciplinary action. All laptops, electronic notebooks (iPads), cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, etc... must be turned off during exams and quizzes. Failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the classroom. Should this occur, you will be required to turn in your exam/quiz at that time – regardless of your progress (or lack thereof) on the exam/quiz.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** All written assignments will be evaluated on content, form, application, and comprehension of the course material. All written assignments must be word-processed (typed), double spaced, with one-inch margins and in a 12-point font. **REFERENCES MUST BE PROPERLY CITED.** At all costs avoid plagiarism. Place quotation marks around quoted material and provide citations for any idea, concept, or data/information from a source. Intentional plagiarism on any assignment could result in failing the assignment and the course. Plagiarism may also jeopardize your academic standing at the college. Should you have any questions about plagiarism and how to avoid it, please see the course instructor.

**CHICAGO FIELD PROJECT:** Each student will conduct a field project within the City of Chicago that examines a contemporary urban problem and how that problem is addressed by a **Chicago nonprofit** organization. Students will research the history and status of the chosen organization while evaluating its structure, focus, programs/projects, funding, effectiveness, and other characteristics. A detailed description of this project will be posted on the course Blackboard (Bb) site and will be discussed in class. Final projects should include 6-8 pages of content and analysis, in addition to a comprehensive and well-organized appendix.

**SHORT WRITTEN/ORAL ASSIGNMENTS:** Throughout the semester students may be required to complete short written and/or oral assignments addressing and reflecting on course topics, readings, and guest speakers. Specific details regarding these assignments will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard.

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:** Students are expected to attend each class session. In addition to attending class, students are required to have completed the assigned readings prior to class and to effectively contribute to class discussions. If you miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered and for any changes in assignments or procedures announced in class. As attendance and participation are calculated into your final grade, students are allowed one unexcused absence per semester without penalty. More than one absence will impact your attendance/participation grade.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Throughout the semester, Elmhurst College will host several events with speakers and topics relevant to our course content. As many of these events occur outside of required course meeting times, extra credit will be given to students who attend these events. Approved extra credit opportunities will be updated on the course blackboard site throughout the semester. Details regarding the procedure for obtaining extra credit will also be posted on Blackboard.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

Students in this course are expected to be knowledgeable of and comply with all policies outlined in the

***Elmhurst College E-Book:***

**[http://issuu.com/elmhurstcollege/docs/elmhurst\\_e-book\\_2013-2014?e=1328944/4525897](http://issuu.com/elmhurstcollege/docs/elmhurst_e-book_2013-2014?e=1328944/4525897)**

**Code of Academic Integrity**

Elmhurst College is a community of scholars. Such a community places the highest value on academic honesty and integrity. Therefore, Elmhurst College’s Code of Academic Integrity is designed to ensure:

1. A fair academic environment where students are evaluated on the scholarly merits of their work.
2. An academic environment where personal integrity is fostered.
3. An understanding of standard academic practices when formulating ideas, conducting research, and documenting sources.

It is the responsibility of each student to know and understand this academic integrity policy. There are general campus-wide definitions of academic honesty as well as department guidelines. Participants are responsible for educating themselves on this matter since sanctions for academic dishonesty may be severe. Thus, Elmhurst College students should act honestly in all academic work. Please refer to the *Elmhurst College E-Book* for additional information.

### **Disability Services**

Elmhurst College will make accommodations for students with disabilities based on the presentation of appropriate documentation. If you believe that you have a disability that may impact your work in this course, contact Dr. Corinne Smith, Disabilities Services Coordinator, at corinne.smith@elmhurst.edu, 630-617-6448.

### **Learning Center: Academic Support**

The Learning Center offers services to support the academic performance of all Elmhurst College students. Sessions are structured to promote principles of effective, self-regulated learning and academic management. Areas of tutoring include math, writing, reading, study skills, and special test preparation (i.e., ACT, SAT, GRE, TAP). For more information, contact Mrs. Emmi McAdams, Math Specialist, at emmim@elmhurst.edu , 630-617-5376; or Mrs. Susan Roach, Learning Center Director, at susan.roach@elmhurst.edu, 630-617-3155.

***Both Disability Services and the Learning Center are located in the Frick Center in Room 229.***

### **Statement Regarding the Use of Plagiarism Detection Services**

Faculty members may at any time submit a student's work for review by a plagiarism detection service.

### **Non-Discrimination/Non-Harassment Policy**

The College believes that all employees and students should be able to work and learn in an educational environment free from discrimination and harassment. Harassment includes unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, written or graphic, that is based on protected group status such as race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran's status, or other protected status. Please refer to the *Elmhurst College E-Book* for additional information.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

The College attempts to establish a climate which encourages the assumption of responsibility by students for their individual and collective actions with a minimum of rules and regulations. It shall be the responsibility of each student to comply with appropriate standards of conduct and decorum befitting a member of an educational community. Please refer to the *Elmhurst College E-Book* for additional information.

**COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS**

*Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings **PRIOR** to the class for which they are assigned. Supplemental readings/assignments will be posted on the course blackboard (Bb) site throughout the semester.*

*Please check blackboard regularly for updates and changes.*

***This schedule is subject to change throughout the semester.***

**WEEK I: 1/31**

**Course Introduction and Overview**

**Urbanization & Evolution of Urban America**

Judd: Ch.1-2

**WEEK II: 2/7**

**Party Machines and the Immigrants**

Judd: Ch. 3

Articles on Blackboard

**WEEK III: 2/14**

**The Progressives and Reform Politics**

Judd: Ch. 4

Articles on Blackboard

Royko: Start Reading

Film: *Chicago: City of the Century*

**WEEK IV: 2/21**

**History of Chicago**

Simpson: Part II (*The Hasted Street Saga*)

Royko: Continue Reading

Articles on Blackboard

Film: *Daley, The Last Boss*

**WEEK V: 2/28**

**Chicago Politics: Richard J. Daley & The Chicago Political Machine**

Royko: Finish Reading

Articles on Blackboard

**WEEK VI: 3/7**

**Chicago Politics: The Old vs. New Chicago Political Machine**

Simpson: Parts I, III & IV

**WEEK VII: 3/14**

3/15: Finish uncovered material and review for Midterm Examination

**3/17: Midterm Examination**

**WEEK VIII: 3/21**

**SPRING BREAK – Class will not meet**

**WEEK IX: 3/28**

**The Evolution of Urban Policy in the United States – Creating a Suburban Nation**

Judd: Ch. 5-7

Articles on Blackboard

***Guest Speaker: Mayor of Franklin Park***

**WEEK X: 4/4**

**Urban Policy and the Politics of Race**

Judd: Ch. 8

Simpson: Part II

Coates: Start Reading

Articles on Blackboard

**WEEK XI: 4/11**

**Urban Policy and the Politics of Race (continued)**

Coates: Finish Reading

Articles on Blackboard

**WEEK XII: 4/18**

**Urban Renewal & Public Housing**

Articles on Blackboard

Film: 70 Acres in Chicago

***Guest Speaker: Ronit Bezalel***

**WEEK XIII: 4/25**

**Urban Policy & Public Education**

Simpson: Part V (Mixon Article)

Articles on Blackboard

***In-Class Debate: Charter Schools***

**Week XIV: 5/2**

**Global Cities & The Urban Future**

Judd: Ch. 13 - 15

Simpson: Part V, VII

Articles on Blackboard

**WEEK XV: 5/9**

5/9: ***“Sanctuary Cities” Under the Trump Administration***

***Guest Speaker: Immigration Attorney Erin Cobb***

5/11: Finish uncovered material and review for Final Examination

**WEEK XVI: 5/16**

***5/16: Final Examination***

***Chicago Field Project Reports are due on 5/18 by 1:00PM***