I. Course Description: A study of the functions and problems of urban and municipal political units. Topics include small towns and cities, taxation, home rule, minority relations, suburban politics, personnel recruitment, and intergovernmental relations.

II. Student Learning Outcomes. By the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how and why urban areas emerged and developed in the U.S.
2. Analyze governmental attempts to respond to citizens’ needs in the urban environment.
3. Synthesize material explaining how and why machine politics developed in the United States and how reformers were able to end the urban political machines.
4. Compare and contrast the manner in which various groups have competed for, and exercised, political power in urban areas.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of service delivery and the management of service delivery in urban areas.
6. Analyze arguments concerning the rise of suburbs and the effects of the relationship between suburbs and the inner cities.
7. Make judgments about the attempts to remedy urban sprawl and other “problems” produced by suburbanization.

III. Textbooks and Required Reading:

IV. Grading Scale and Course Requirements:
   A. Course Requirements
      1. Four exams, including the final. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Each exam will count for 100 points each. The final will not be comprehensive and it will count the same as the other two exams.
      2. Class attendance and participation: I will take roll every time the class meets. You are expected to be here, like me, every day. Your class participation grade will consist of the ratio of the number of days you were here divided by the number of days I was here. No exceptions, with the possible exception of your own death. It is possible to collect as many as 15 easy points here.
B. Grading Scale:
373.5-415 = A
332-373 = B
290.5-331.5 = C
249-290 = D
< 249 = F

V. Course Schedule

A. Metropolitan Cities in the 21st Century
   1. The Challenge of Metropolitan Governance
      Vogel and Harrigan, chapter 1                                        June 4-5
      NOTE: Census Date (last day for registration/schedule changes is Thursday, June 7)
   2. The Emergence of Metropolitan America
      Vogel and Harrigan, chapter 2                                        June 6-7

B. Who Has the Power? Urban Regimes, Machine Politics, and Reform
   1. Ethnic-Based Politics in the City
      Vogel and Harrigan, chapter 3                                        June 7-8
      Test 1: Second half of the class period, Friday, June 8
   2. Urban Reform and the Decline of Machine Politics
      Vogel and Harrigan, chapter 4                                        June 11

C. Politics in the Contemporary City: Economics, Political Structure, Leadership, Decentralization, and Urban Service Delivery
   1. The City as a Place of Opportunity
      a. The Politics of Racial and Social Change
         Vogel and Harrigan, chapter 5                                        June 12-13
   2. The Chinese-American Experience in Greater Los Angeles
      a. History, Race, and Politicization of Asian-Americans
         Toyota, chapters 1-2                                                June 14-15
      Test 2: Second half of the class period, Friday, June 15
      b. Leaving China and Arriving in California (and early attempts to organize politically)
         Toyota, chapters 3-4                                                June 18-19
      c. Maturing Political Organization and the Need to Find Allies
         Toyota, chapters 5-7                                                June 19-22
Test 3: Second half of the class period, Friday, June 22

NOTE: June 22 is the last day one can withdraw from a course.

   Vogel and Harrigan, chapter 6

NOTE: I will be absent from class from June 25-29. I will post 2-3 PowerPoints during this week, which you are to access as part of your class participation grade. I may also be able to create Tegrity videos of lectures associated with chapters 6 and 7 and post those as well. This is not the time to take the week off. The plan is for you to access the PowerPoints and the Tegrity videos throughout the week as if you were attending class.

4. Community Power and Leadership in the Cities  June 27-29
   Vogel and Harrigan, chapter 7

D. Suburbia and the Multicentered Metropolis  July 2-3
   1. Suburbia and the Challenge of Growth
      Vogel and Harrigan, chapter 8

   2. Metropolitan Government  July 3-5
      Vogel and Harrigan, chapter 9

NOTE: Of course, we will not meet on July 4

In the unlikely event that we are ahead of schedule, we will try to squeeze in Harrigan and Vogel, Chapter 10, The New Regionalism. But under no circumstances will we cover material after Chapter 10.

Final Exam --------------- Friday, July 6
Class Policies: Upper-Division Political Science Courses

General Statement Regarding the Conduct of the Class

I view the teaching and learning aspect of university life to be the central purpose of the university, an institution that is unique in our culture. Consequently, I do not view students as “customers,” and I do not view myself as an “employee.” I view myself as a professional, and I view you as one who is present in my class to learn about the subject matter pertaining to the class. I spend considerable time and attention choosing texts and other readings that are central to your mastering of the subject matter, and I conduct scholarly research and publication with the aim of making myself a more informed teacher. Your grade in the course will reflect the quality of your work, and nothing else, based on my professional judgment. I will also do the best I can to know your name, and I will always try to respect you as an individual.

Attendance Policy

In all classes attendance is mandatory, not optional. Even in large classes, I will take the class roll in some form or fashion to monitor attendance. Class participation is a small, but formal part of the grade in this course. Most of your class participation grade will be based on your attendance in the course. If you miss class because of university responsibilities, please let me know ahead of time and have some documentation. Any work missed will be made up as soon as possible, in consultation with me. Makeup examinations will be given if a valid excuse for missing an examination is provided. Makeup examinations will be scheduled such that everyone missing the original examination can be present, so I do not have to administer several examinations on an individual basis.

Grading Policy

Examinations will consist of objective, multiple-choice questions (mostly) with an essay component. Thus, class attendance and good note taking, as well as thorough reading of course materials, are necessities to receiving high grades.

Disability Statement

If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Office located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579).
Social Security Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number.

Note Regarding Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of such absences.

Grade Replacement

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the Registrar by the Census Date. Failure to file an intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three (undergraduate student) or two (graduate student) course repeats during his/her career at UT-Tyler.