POLS 3345 Urban and Municipal Government  Fall 2013 (August-December 2013)

12:30-1:45 Tuesday and Thursday  Geoffrey Willbanks

Office: Tyler Junior College Jenkins 179 Office hours: 10:00-11:00am Monday, Wednesday, before and after class, and by appointment.

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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:**
B. Various articles from academic journals

IV. **Grading Scale and Course Requirements:**
A. Course Requirements
   a. 12 short papers on topics from the readings in City Politics. Each paper will be worth 17 points. All 12 together will equal 200 points. Points earned about 200 will be included in the grade average.
   b. One major papers on topics selected by the professor. Consult separate handouts for additional information. The paper will be worth 100 points
c. A weekly quiz of five to ten questions on the reading using individual and team answers. All quizzes together will be worth 100 points.
d. A final exam composed of essay questions on topics from course material discussed in class. Students will have access to the topics of the questions prior to the test. The test will be worth 100 points.

B. Class attendance and participation: I will take roll every time the class meets. You are expected to be here, like me, every class period. Attendance will play a crucial role in your ability to take the weekly quizzes and in case of a course grade near a higher letter grade.

C. Grading Scale:
All points will be added together to get a sum total. Course grade will be based on the following grade zones:

500-450=A, 449-400=B, 399-350=C, 349-300=D, >300=F

V. Course Schedule

August 27th  Introduction
August 29th  Chapter One: The Evolution of City Politics in America, First Assignment Paper due

September 3rd  Chapter One Quiz
September 5th  Chapter Two: The Legacy of America’s Urban Past, Second Assignment Paper due

September 10th  Chapter Two Quiz
September 12th  Chapter Three: Party Machines and the Immigrants, Third Assignment Paper due

September 17th  Chapter Three Quiz
September 19th  Chapter Four: The Reform Crusades, Fourth Assignment Paper due
September 24th  Chapter Four Quiz
September 26th  Chapter Five: Urban Voters and the Rise of the a National Democratic Majority, Fifth Assignment Paper due

October 1st  Chapter Five Quiz
October 3rd  Chapter Six: The City/Suburban Divide, Sixth Assignment Paper due
October 8th  Chapter Six, Quiz
October 10th  Chapter Seven: National Policy and the City/Suburban Divide, Seventh Assignment Paper due

October 15th  Chapter Seven Quiz

October 17th  Chapter Eight: Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race, Eighth Assignment Paper due

October 22nd  Chapter Eight Quiz

October 24th  Chapter Nine: The Rise of the Sunbelt, Ninth Assignment Paper due

October 29th  Chapter Nine Quiz

October 31st  Chapter Ten: The Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis, Tenth Assignment Paper due

November 5th  Chapter Ten Quiz

November 7th  Chapter Eleven: Governing the Fragmented Metropolis, Eleventh Assignment Paper due

November 12th  Chapter Eleven Quiz

November 14th  Chapter Twelve: The Metropolitan Chase, Twelfth Assignment Paper due

November 19th  Chapter Twelve, Major Paper due Quiz

November 21st  Chapter Thirteenth: The Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center, no paper Quiz

November 26th  Chapter Fourteen: Governing the Divided City, no paper Quiz

November 28th  Thanksgiving Holiday; no class

December 3rd  Chapter Fifteen: City and Metropolis in the Global Era, no paper Quiz

December 5th  Review of all class material, no paper

December 10 or later  finals week, Final Exam as Scheduled by UT Tyler