**Honors Seminar: Comparative Urban Politics**

Course #: 50:790:496:01

Room: BSB 107

Spring 2013

Tuesdays 1:30-4:20pm

**Instructor: Maureen Donaghy**

Office: 401 Cooper St., #109

Hours: Tuesdays, 11am – 12pm or by appointment

Email: maureen.donaghy@rutgers.edu

**Course Description**

This course offers a broad overview of comparative urban politics and policies with special emphasis on cities in the developing world. We will consider issues related to urbanization, development, governance, and the policy process. In particular, we will explore issues related to illegal settlements, community development, and the impact of globalization on cities. Themes will also include migration, environmental sustainability and economic growth. As an honors seminar, in this course we will read a number of seminal texts and discuss the readings during class. Students will be expected to complete an original research paper on a topic of their choosing.

**Readings**

All books are available for purchase at the Rutgers-Camden bookstore.

Neuwirth, Robert. 2006. *Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters, A New Urban World*. New York: Routledge.

Orr, Marion and Valerie C. Johnson, eds. 2008. *Power in the City: Clarence Stone and the Politics of Inequality*. University of Kansas Press.

Gugler, Josef, ed. 2004. *World Cities Beyond the West: Globalization, Development and Inequality*. Cambridge University Press.

Harvey, David. 2012. *Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution*. Verso Press.

 Pierre, Jon. 2011. *The Politics of Urban Governance*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Briggs, Xavier de Souza. *Democracy as Problem Solving: Civic Capacity in Communities Across the Globe*. MIT Press.

Additionally, please sign up to receive email updates from the following sites:

* Atlantic Cities’ e-newsletter – a sub-section of the *Atlantic Monthly*, sign up at <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/>
* Global Urbanist – sign up to receive their weekly updates at <http://www.globalurbanist.com>

**Course work and Grades**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Requirement** | **Due date** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Participation in class discussions | On-going | 20% |
| Leading Discussion | Sign-up on first day of class | 20% |
| Research Paper   * Proposal * Part 1 * Presentation * Final Paper | February 19  March 26  April 30  May 3 | 5%  15%  10%  30% |

**Participation**

Participation grades will be based on student involvement in class discussions. Because the class size is small, students are required to come prepared and participate in class discussions every week.

**Leading Discussion**

Students will sign-up to lead discussion during 2 class sessions. Each student should prepare a 1-2 page handout on the day’s readings for his or her classmates with the following headings:

Summary - the subject of the reading, cases involved, the main argument, etc.

Strengths - contribution to the study of urban politics, readability, etc. Weaknesses - what is missing, what do you disagree with, etc.

If you would like me to print copies for the class, please email me your handouts by 10am on the day of class.

**Research Paper: Policy Brief**

Each student will write a 15-20 page policy brief on a topic of his or her choosing. All papers, however, should identify one policy problem within a chosen city or across cities and propose solutions to the policy problem given local political constraints. Students should plan to meet individually with Dr. Donaghy prior to the proposal deadline in order to discuss possible topics of interest. The first part of the paper should document the policy problem within the chosen city or group of cities. The second part of the paper will then provide directives to local government leaders or international donors to address the problem. More specific details on the paper will be discussed in class.

**Schedule and Readings**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings** (To be completed BEFORE class) |
| Week 1 Jan. 22 | Course Introduction | Overview of syllabus and class themes |
| Week 2 Jan. 29 | Slums/squatter settlements in the Developing World | *Shadow Cities*, Neuwirth: Prologue through Chapter 4 |
| Week 3 Feb. 5 | Slums/squatter settlements in the Developing World | Shadow Cities, Neuwirth: Chapter 5 through 10 |
| Week 4 Feb. 12 | World Cities | *World Cities Beyond the West*, Gugler: Part 1, The Impact of the Global Economy |
| Week 5 Feb. 19 | World Cities | *World Cities Beyond the West*, Gugler: Part 2, The Impact of the State and Part 3, The Impact of Popular Movements  **Research Paper Proposal Due** |
| Week 6 Feb. 26 | Theories of Urban Politics | *Power in the City*, Orr and Johnson: Chapters 1-6 |
| Week 7 March 5 | Theories of Urban Politics | *Power in the City*, Orr and Johnson: Chapters 7-13 |
| Week 8 March 12 | Governance | *The Politics of Urban Governance*, Pierre |
| March 19 | No Class – Spring Break |  |
| Week 9 March 26 | Governance | *The Politics of Urban Governance*, Pierre  **Research Paper Part 1 Due** |
| Week 10 April 2 | Civic Society and Solutions to Urban Challenges | *Democracy as Problem Solving*, Briggs: Chapters 1-5 |
| Week 11 April 9 | Civil Society and Solutions to Urban Challenges | *Democracy as Problem Solving*, Briggs: Chapters 6-12 |
| Week 12 April 16 | The Right to the City and Grassroots Change | *Rebel Cities*, Harvey: Chapters 1-4 |
| Week 13 April 23 | The Right to the City and Grassroots Change | *Rebel Cities*, Harvey: Chapters 5-7 |
| Week 14  April 30 | **Paper Presentations** |  |

**Final Paper Due: Friday, May 3rd, by 5pm**