

Politics and Community Development (4)
Professor Michael Peter Smith
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Office: 1325 Hart Hall -- Office Hours: T-Th 12:30-1:30, or by appointment
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CRD 157, Winter 2008
T & TH 2:10-4:00
Wellman 216
CRN #: 17677

COURSE GOALS

This course analyzes the interacting political, economic and cultural practices that shape the character of “place-making” in local communities in the United States. It examines the relationship among economic, political, and socio-cultural processes in shaping the economic vitality, social structure, cultural composition, and built environment of U.S. cities. Community politics is viewed as a vital point of connection where changes in national and state public policies, the organization of the global economy, and the practices of transnational and global networks interact with “local-level” social actions and practices, producing community change.

The main goal of the course is to develop students’ ability to critically analyze community change in the context of alternative theories of the state, community power, and social change by exposing them to the rich texture of case studies of actual community change in comparative perspective. Critical urban issues treated in the course will include current debates over the causes and consequences of economic restructuring and urban sprawl, the changing character of federal urban policies, the urban impacts of globalization and transnationalism, and the politics of rebuilding of New Orleans.

ENTRY LEVEL

Upper division standing. Prior coursework in sociology or political science recommended.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

1. Who rules? Models and boundaries of politics that give meaning to facts
2. The Global-Local connection in urban change
3. The role of national politics and policy in urban development
4. The “local state” and the politics of race: A tale of two cities
5. Community politics: The intersection of local, national and global practices
6. Rebuilding New Orleans: Whose City?
7. The politics of local economic development and social policy
8. Metropolitan sprawl and the politics of growth control
9. Economic restructuring and community change
10. Base closures and the politics of economic conversion
11. Overview: Community Power in National and Global Perspective

GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Normally a lecture/discussion format will be followed in this course. In addition, during the second half of the course, each student will be asked to join in a group presentation of selected topical readings. Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following activities:

- a. mid-term: take-home problem-essay, 7-8 typed pages, double spaced (35%)
- b. group presentation /participation in class discussions (15%)
- c. 12-14 page research paper (35%)
- d. take-home final examination (15%)

REQUIRED READINGS

Course Reader: (available at Navin's Copy Shop, 231 Third St.)

Books: (available from UCD bookstore)

Squires, Gregory (ed.), *Unequal Partnerships*

Smith, M.P., (ed.) *Marginal Spaces*

Smith, M.P. *Transnational Urbanism: Locating Globalization*

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Topics 1-5

Lectures/
Discussions

Jan. 4 **Course Introduction: Urban Political Economy and Culture**

**Topic 1: "Who rules?" Models and Boundaries of Politics
 that Give Meaning to Facts**

Jan. 8/17 Course reader: J. Allen Whitt, selected chapters of Urban Elites and Mass
Transportation;
Gerry Stoker, "Regime Theory and Urban Politics"
Steven Lukes, "Questions About Power: Lessons from The Louisiana Hurricane"

Topic 2: The Global-Local Connection and the Politics of "Place-Making"

Jan22/24 M.P. Smith, Transnational Urbanism Chs. 1, 3, 5, and
"Epilogue pp. 1-20, 48-71, 101-122, and 184-194
Darel E. Paul, "The Local Politics of 'Going Global': Making and Unmaking
Minneapolis-St. Paul as a World City"
Denise Nickel, "The Progressive City?: Urban Redevelopment in Minneapolis"
W.S. Kowinski, "The Store that Ate the World"

Topic 3: Urban Change: The Role of National Politics and Policy

Jan29/31 Squires, "Public-Private Partnerships: Who Gets What and Why,"
 in Unequal Partnerships, Ch. 1, pp. 1-11
Levine, "The Politics of Partnership: Urban Redevelopment since 1945," in
Unequal Partnerships, Ch. 2, pp. 12-34.
Shearer, "In Search of Equal Partnerships," in Unequal Partnerships, Ch. 15
In Course Reader:
Peter Drier, "Urban Neglect: George W. Bush and the Cities,"
Frymer, Strolovitch, and Warren, "Katrina's Political Roots and Divisions:
Race, Class, and Federalism in American Politics,"
John Schwartz, "A Billion Dollars Later, New Orleans Still at Risk,"

Topic 4: The "Local State" and the Politics of Race: A Tale of Two Cities

Feb. 5/7 Whelan, "New Orleans: Public-Private Partnerships and Uneven Development," in
Unequal Partnerships, Ch. 12, pp. 222-239.
Young and Christos-Rogers, "Resisting Racially Gendered Space: The Women of
the St. Thomas Resident Council, New Orleans, Ch. 4 in Marginal Spaces,
pp.115-127

Norman, "Congenial Milwaukee: A Segregated City," in Unequal Partnerships, Ch. 10, pp. 178-201.
Rast, "Governing the Regimeless City," (on Milwaukee) in Course reader

Topic 5: Community Politics: Intersection of Local, National and Global Practices

Feb. 12/14 Mele, "Private Redevelopment and Changing Forms of Displacement in the East Village of New York," in Marginal Spaces, Ch. 3
M.P. Smith, Transnational Urbanism, Ch. 4, "Reimagining Los Angeles from the Ground Up," pp. 72-98
Course Reader: Soja, "Economic Restructuring and the Internationalization of the Los Angeles Region"
Brown, "In One Suburb, Local Politics With Asian Roots" (Cupertino)

MID TERM: (Take-home problem-essay Distributed February 14, Due Feb. 21)

PLANNING STUDENT GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Feb. 19 Video on the causes and consequences of urban sprawl / discussion of video and organization of student presentation groups

Feb. 21 break out group meetings in class to plan presentations and receive feedback

Student Group Presentations: February 22 - March 13

Topic 6 Metropolitan Sprawl and the Politics of Growth Control

Feb.26 Smith, Guagnano, and Posehn, "The Political Economy of Growth in Sacramento: Whose City?" in Unequal Partnerships, Ch. 14, pp. 260-288
Course reader:
Robert Bruegmann, "The Causes of Sprawl"
Periodical articles on the politics of urban sprawl,
Mike Davis, "Homegrown Revolution," "from City of Quartz (on L.A.)
Olsen and Andersen, "from Boom, Bust and Land Use Planning in San Francisco
The Economist, "City in a Bottle: San Francisco's Half Recovery" and Phoenix: Into the Ashes"

Topic 7 Rebuilding New Orleans: Whose City?

Feb. 28 Course reader:
Peter Burns and Matthew Thomas, "The Failure of the Nonregime: How Katrina Exposed New Orleans as a Regimeless City,"
Elizabeth Fussel, "Leaving New Orleans: Social Stratification, Networks, and Hurricane Evacuation"
Kristin Buras, "Katrina's Early Landfall: Exclusionary Politics Behind the Restoration of New Orleans"

P.G. Gosselin, "Rebuilding New Orleans: Residents left to their own resources to remake whole communities"
Urban Land Institute: "Moving Beyond Recovery...Recommendations on Rebuilding New Orleans" + ACORN Response + selected press accounts of politics of rebuilding

Topic 8 The Politics of Community Economic Development and Social Policy

Course reader:
March 4 M.P. Smith, "The Uses of Linked Development Policies in U.S. Cities"
Peter Dreier, "Economic Growth and Economic Justice in Boston," in Unequal Partnerships, Ch. 3, pp. 35-58
Dolgon, Kline, and Dresser, "House People, Not Cars!" in Marginal Spaces, ch. 1
Wright, "Tranquility City: Self-Organization, Protest, and Collective Gains Within A Chicago Homeless Encampment," in Marginal Spaces, Ch. 2

Topic 9 Economic Restructuring and Community Change

March 6 Thomas, "Detroit: The Centrifugal City," in Unequal Partnerships, Ch. 5
Sbragia, "The Pittsburgh Model of Economic Development," in Unequal Partnerships, Ch. 6
Course Reader:
Dao, "Letter from Pittsburgh...City Lost in Transition"
Kilborn, "Enormous Landmark Joins Graveyard of Malls"
Pristin, "New Urbanism in Denver"
Body-Gendrot, "Plant Closures in Socialist France," 73-91
Nash, "Community and Corporations in the Restructuring of Industry," 81-92

Topic 10 Base Closures and the Politics of Economic Conversion

March 11 Course reader:
Bradshaw, "Communities Not Fazed: Why Military Base Closures May Not Be Catastrophic," pp. 193-206
Matsuoka, "Reintegrating the Flatlands," pp. 105-113
Markusen and Yudken book selection from Dismantling the Cold War Economy
Selected newspaper articles on base closures and economic conversion projects

Overview: Contextualizing Community Power and Political Regimes

March 13 (A) Wrap-up course overview; (B) review take home final questions,
(C) distribute take-home final exams and (D) complete course evaluations

RESEARCH PAPER DUE: BY MARCH 17, at noon
TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE: MARCH 20, at noon