

P11.0015: THE POLITICS OF NEW YORK
New York University
Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service

Spring 2005, Monday & Wednesday, 9:30-10:45am
Silver Center, Room 411

Office Hours: Monday 3-5 pm
(And by appointment)

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New York City is the largest city in the United States, and the municipal government has a budget larger than most states in the nation. This course examines the political and governmental processes that influence New York City. The structure of municipal government provides the mayor with substantial powers and city council with significant powers as well. The first half of the course will emphasize the role of the mayor, city council, the budget process, as well as the way in which state and regional governments affect public services and city policies. During the second half of the course, the politics of specific topics will be analyzed such as: land use planning, economic development, labor relations, public safety, and the rebuilding of lower Manhattan.

Required Texts:

Robert Caro, The Power Broker, Doubleday, 1975

James Glanz and Eric Lipton, City in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of the World Trade Center, Times Books, 2003

Packet of readings to be purchased

Related Website Resources:

Gotham Gazette: <http://www.gothamgazette.com>

Official NYC Website: <http://www.nyc.gov>

Citizens' Budget Commission: <http://www.cbc.org>

NYC Independent Budget Office: <http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us>

NY State Office of the Comptroller: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us>

NYC Department of City Planning: <http://www.nyc.gov/planning>

Course Requirements:

All students should do the required reading. The course grade will be based on written assignments: a 3-5 page paper summarizing a community board or city council hearing, a take-home final, and a case study (length 2000- 2500 words) involving a community conflict in New York City. All written work should be submitted in hard copy to Prof. Moss or placed in his mailbox at The Puck Building, 3rd floor. A detailed description of the written assignments will be distributed in class.

1. How New York Differs from other Large Cities, January 19

- 1.1 NYC Department of City Planning Population Demographics
online: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/dcp/html/census/popdiv.html>
- 1.2 NYC Department of City Planning Census Summary
online: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/dcp/html/census/pop2000.html>

2. The City Charter and the Structure of Municipal Government, January 24, 26

- 2.1 City of New York, City Charter: Introduction, Chapters 1: Mayor, Chapter 2: Council
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/charter/pdf/citycharter2002.pdf>
- 2.2 City Organization Chart
http://home.nyc.gov/html/om/html/orgchart/org_chart.html
- 2.3 Wallace Sayre and Herbert Kaufman: "Chapter 19: Risks, Rewards and Remedies,"
Governing New York City. 1965.
- 2.4 Wallace Sayre and Herbert Kaufman: "Chapter 3: Contestants for the Prizes of The
City's Politics," *Governing New York City*. 1965.
- 2.5 J. Philip Thompson, "One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: Liberalism, Race and Local
Democracy," in Mollenkopf and Emerson eds., *Rethinking the Urban Agenda*, Century
Foundation Press, 2001, chapter 11. pp. 187-206.
- 2.6 **Gotham Gazette**, A Brief History of Election Law in New York, September 1, 2003,
<http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/issueoftheweek/20030901/22/507>
- 2.7 **New York City Campaign Finance Board**: <http://www.cfb.nyc.ny.us>

3. NYC Budget Process and Finances, January 31, February 2

- 3.1 Dick Netzer, *Urban Politics: New York Style*, chapter 2: "The Economy and the
Governing of the City: New York Style," 1990.
- 3.2 The City of New York Independent Budget Office: "Understanding NYC's Budget,"
Nov. 2001, "A Guide to the Capital Budget," Nov. 2002, and "The Road to Adopting
New York City's Budget," 2004, <http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/>
- 3.3 The City of New York Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2006: Message of the Mayor,
Office of Management and Budget, 2006. Online: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/omb/>

- 3.4 Citizens Budget Commission, 10 Myths About Balancing New York City's Budget and 5 Ways to Lower the Cost of Government, December 7, 2002, www.cbcny.org
- 3.5 New York State Deputy Comptroller for the City of New York: "Review of the FYs 2005-2008 Financial Plan for the City of New York. July 12, 2004
Online: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/osdc/rpt1103/>
- 3.6 Mark Berkey-Gerard, "Budget Dollars for the Neighborhoods: Community Development or Political Pork?"
<http://gothamgazette.com/article/20040823/202/1093>

Resources:

- Independent Budget Office <http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports>
- Citizens Budget Commission: <http://www.cbcny.org/>
- New York City Council - Finance Committee:
http://www.council.nyc.ny.us/committees/index.cfm?page=committeedetails&Committee_id=49
- OMB: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/omb/html/budpubs.html>

4. Mayoral Power, Political Parties, and Local Elections, February 7, 9, 14

- 4.1 Thomas Kessner: "Fiorello LaGuardia and the Challenge of Democratic Planning" (pp.315-330) in The Landscape of Modernity, New York City 1900-1940, David Ward & Olivier Zunz, eds.
- 4.2 Chris McNickle: "Chapters 5: Robert F. Wagner and the Political Melting Pot" and "Chapter 13: To Be Mayor of New York," To Be Mayor of New York. 1992.
- 4.3 Vincent J. Cannato: "Chapter 15: Assessing the Lindsay Years," The Ungovernable City: John Lindsay and His Struggle to Save New York, Basic Books, 2001, chapters 3,15. pp 75-118, 525-553.
- 4.4 Andrew Kirtzman, Rudy Giuliani: Emperor of the City, chapter 12: "Demon," William Morrow, 2000.
- 4.5 John Mollenkopf, A Phoenix in the Ashes: The Rise of the Koch Coalition, chapter 6: "Exercise of Power," pp.125-164, Princeton University Press, 1992.
- 4.6 Wayne Barrett, RUDY: An Investigative Biography of Rudy Giuliani, chapter 17: "These Statistics are a Crime," Basic Books, 2000.

5. Visit and Lecture at City Hall - February 16

6. Public Authorities and State Government, February 23, 28

- 6.1 Robert Caro, The Power Broker, Doubleday

- 6.2 Mitchell L. Moss: "New York vs. New Jersey: A New Perspective," Portfolio, Summer 1988. Online: <http://www.mitchellmoss.com/articles/nynj.html>
- 6.3 Alan Rothstein: "The New York State Legislature: How Albany Controls the City," Gotham Gazette. 2001. Online: <http://www.gothamgazette.com/lessons/albany.shtml>
- 6.4 Eric Lane: "Albany's Travesty of Democracy," City Journal. Spring 1997. Online: journal.org/html/7_2_albanys_travesty.html
- 6.5 Kevin Strouse and Mark Berkey-Gerard, "The Upstate-Downstate Debate," Gotham Gazette, December 4, 2000. <http://www.gothamgazette.com/iotw/upstate/>

Resources:

- Port Authority Mission: <http://www.panynj.gov/abframe.HTM>
- Port Authority Structure: <http://www.panynj.gov/govframe.HTM>
- Port Authority Financials: <http://www.panynj.gov/annualreport/arframe.html>
- MTA Mission: <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mta/network.htm>
- MTA Financials: <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mta/ind-finance/>
- MTA Structure: <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mta/leadership/>

7. The Media in Politics: How Issues Get on the Public Agenda, March 2

8. The Politics of City Planning, March 4, 9

- 8.1 David C. Hammack: "Chapter 6: Comprehensive Planning before the Comprehensive Plan: A New Look at the Nineteenth-Century American City," Two Centuries of American Planning, 1988.
- 8.2 Edward K Spann: "Chapter 1: The Greatest Grid: the New York Plan of 1811," Two Centuries of American Planning, 1988
- 8.3 John R. Tatulli, "Charter Section 197-a: A Tool for Community Development," City Land, January/February 2005.
- 8.4 Jerold Kayden, Privately Owned Public Space: The New York City Experience, chapter 2, John Wiley & Sons, 2000.
- 8.5 Dept of City Planning website, <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/dcp/zonehis.html>

9. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, March 21, 23

- 9.1 William J. Bratton and William Andrews: "What We've Learned About Policing," City Journal, Spring 1999. http://www.city-journal.org/html/9_2_what_weve_learned.html
- 9.2 The 911 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, chapter 9, "Heroism and Horror," pp. 278-323. also available online
- 9.3 Michael Jacobson: "From the 'Back' to the 'Front' the Changing Character of Punishment in New York City," Rethinking the Urban Agenda, 2001.

- 9.4 Fred Siegel: "Chapter 15 – The Politics of Public Order," The Future Once Happened Here. Free Press, 1997.
- 9.5 Citizens Budget Commission: Preserving Police Services in Tough Fiscal Times. 2002, www.cbcny.org and The State of Municipal Services in the 21990s: The New York City Fire Department, <http://www.cbcny.org/97fire.html>
- 9.6 New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, A Report to the Governor on the Disturbances in Crown Heights, 1992.

10. Economic Development Policies and Priorities, March 28, 30

- 10.1 Mitchell Moss and Hugh O'Neill: Reinventing New York: Competing in the Next Century's Global Economy. Taub Urban Research Center, 1991.
Online: <http://urban.nyu.edu/research/reinventing-ny/index.html>
- 10.2 Charles Bagli, "Report Finds A Glut in Space for Meetings," The New York Times, January 18, 2005.
- 10.3 Mitchell L. Moss: "Technological Trends Affecting the Manufacturing Sector of New York City," FRBNY Economic Policy Review. 1997.
Online: http://www.ny.frb.org/rmaghome/econ_pol/0297moss.pdf
- 10.4 Charles Bagli, "Stadium Games: Give and Take and Speculation," The New York Times, January 16, 2005. p29-31.
- 10.5 Regional Plan Association, "Analysis of Hudson Yards," www.rpa.org.
- 10.6 Mitchell L. Moss: "We've Got the Human Element on Our Side," The New York Observer, January 10, 2000
Online: <http://www.observer.com/pages/story.asp?ID=2189>

11 The Politics of Education and School Finance, April 4, 6

- 11.1 Diane Ravitch and Joseph Viteritti, "New York: The Obsolete Factory," in Ravitch and Viteritti eds. New Schools for a New Century, Yale University Press, 1997. pp.17-36.
- 11.2 Emanuel Tobier: "New York City's Public Schools: The Facts About Spending and Performance" Civic Bulletin, May 2001.
Online: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/cb_26.pdf
- 11.3 Campaign for Fiscal Equity: "Summary of the Decision by the Court of Appeals in Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc. v. State of New York," June 26, 2003
Online: <http://www.cfequity.org/CrtofAppeals2003.PDF>

- 11.4 Campaign for Fiscal Equity: "*CFE v. STATE OF NEW YORK: AN ANALYTIC OVERVIEW OF THE COURT OF APPEALS DECISION*," June 26, 2003.
<http://www.cfequity.org/CoAAnalysis7-16-03.PDF>

12. September 11th and the Renewal of Lower Manhattan, April 11,13,18,20

- 12.1 James Glanz and Eric Lipton, *City in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of the World Trade Center*, Times Books, 2003
- 12.2 Regional Plan Association, *A Civic Assessment of the Lower Manhattan Planning Process*. September, 2004. <http://www.rpa.org>
- 12.3 Hugh F. Kelly, "The New York Regional and Downtown Office Market: History and Prospects after 9/11," Report Prepared for the Civic Alliance, August 2002.
Online: <http://www.civic-alliance.org/pdf/econdev-book-kelly.pdf>
- 12.4 Mitchell L. Moss, "The Redevelopment of Lower Manhattan," December, 2004, Sage Foundation, unpublished manuscript.
- 12.5 Philip Nobel, *Sixteen Acres: Architecture and the Outrageous Struggle for The Future of Ground Zero*, Metropolitan Books, 2005. chapter 11, pp.203-229.

Resources:

- Civic Alliance: <http://www.civic-alliance.org/>
- Rebuild Downtown Our Town: <http://www.rebuilddowntownourtown.org>
- Lowermanhattan.info: <http://www.lowermanhattan.info>
- Imagine NY: <http://www.imagineny.org/index.html>

16. Planning and Politics on the Waterfront, April 25, 27

- 16.1 Mitchell L. Moss: "Staging a Renaissance on the Waterfront," *New York Affairs*, 1980.
www.mitchellmoss.com
- 16.2 Julia Vitullo-Martin, "Thinking about the Brooklyn Waterfront," Center for Rethinking Development at the Manhattan Institute, http://www.manhattan-institute.org/cgi-bin/advprint/print_crd.cgi?doc
- 16.3 Kenneth Silber, "The Wasted Waterfront," *City Journal*, Spring, 1996, p.58-69.
http://www.city-journal.org/html/6_2_the_wasted.html
- 16.4 Anne Schwartz, "Governor's Island," <http://www.gothamgazette.com/iotw/govisland/index.shtml>

17. The Future of Politics in NYC, May 2, 4