



NYU

**ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

URPL-GP 2415 Public Policy and Planning in New York City Fall 2020

Instructor Information

- Professor Mitchell L. Moss
 - Email: moss.mitchell@gmail.com
 - Sign up for office hours using [this link](#)
 - Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3PM to 5PM, or by appointment
- Teaching Assistant: Olivia Limone
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 - Sign up for office hours using [this link](#)
 - Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11AM to 4PM, or by appointment

Course Information

- Class Meeting Times: Wednesdays, 4:55PM - 6:35PM
- Class Location: <https://nyu.zoom.us/j/93078944155>

Course Description

This course analyzes the role of public officials, civic organizations, advocates, and elections in the governance of New York City. We will explore the role of the public sector in the city's physical and economic development, the financing of essential municipal services, and the forces affecting public safety, education, cultural life, and mass transit.

The course will also explore the way in which the state and federal governments influence the city, and the way in which demographic and ethnic change are shaping political participation in local elections.

During this semester, we will focus on the way in which NYC has responded to disasters, such as the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire of 1911, the Spanish Flu of 1918-19, the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 and the coronavirus pandemic of 2020. We will explore the way in which the pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement are going to influence political participation and the mayoral election of 2021.

Course and Learning Objectives:

1. analyze the economic, political, technological and demographic forces that influence New York City's growth and development;

2. identify the key actors, organizations and processes that influence planning and policy making;
3. understand how the media can drive city policies.
4. think critically about specific public policy debates, e.g., race relations, criminal justice, mass transit and generate your own evaluations of proposed policies; and
5. demonstrate command of lecture concepts through well-documented writing reinforced by data, maps and other visuals, and through contributions to class discussions.

Learning Assessment Table

Graded Assignment	Course Objective Covered
Midterm Exam	#1, 2, 3, and 4
Policy Memo	#1, 2, 4, and 5
Final Exam	#1, 2, 3, and 4

Required Readings

Students will be expected to have read the required readings assigned for a given week prior to lecture. While all other required readings will be accessible online (either via NYU Classes or the URL provided in the Course Content section of this syllabus), students must rent or purchase the following text (available at the NYU Bookstore):

- Caro, R. (1974). *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*. New York, NY: Knopf.

Immediately below each week’s required reading list is a set of suggested readings that I encourage you to read, but doing so is optional. In order to keep readings relevant to current events, readings will be updated a week prior to each class. Weeks with more extensive readings will be uploaded further in advance. Readings can be found in the “Lessons” tab of NYU Classes for that corresponding week.

Discussion

During many classes, there will be allocated time for students to discuss themes of the class topic. Students will utilize the “raise hand” feature on Zoom to participate. Potential discussion questions will be posted each week with the readings so that students have time to reflect and prepare that week’s topic. While every question may not be directly asked in a class session, preparation of each question will help students comprehend that week’s material.

Web Resources

The following are news publications, magazines, journals, blogs, and other providers of content focused on New York City and/or New York State politics, policy (budget, education, economic, housing and transportation, to name a few), or (history of) capital planning.

News Sources

- [amNY](http://amny.com): amny.com
- [Bklyner](http://bklyner.com): bklyner.com
- [Chalkbeat | New York](http://chalkbeat.org/ny): chalkbeat.org/ny
- [THE CITY](http://city.nyc): city.nyc
- [City & State New York](http://cityandstateny.com): cityandstateny.com

- [City Journal](http://city-journal.org): city-journal.org
- [City Lab | New York](http://citylab.com/locations/cities/new-york/): citylab.com/locations/cities/new-york/
- [City Limits](http://citylimits.org): citylimits.org
- [Crain's Business New York](http://crainsnewyork.com): crainsnewyork.com
- [Curbed New York](http://ny.curbed.com): ny.curbed.com
- [Daily Intelligencer, New York Magazine](http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer): nymag.com/daily/intelligencer
- [Daily News | Big Town, Big Time: An Amazing History of NYC](http://interactive.nydailynews.com/project/archive/amazing-history-nyc): interactive.nydailynews.com/project/archive/amazing-history-nyc
- [Daily Politics \(NY Daily News blog\)](http://nydailynews.com/news/politics/): nydailynews.com/news/politics/
- [Gotham Gazette](http://gothamgazette.com): gothamgazette.com
- [Gothamist](http://gothamist.com): gothamist.com
- [New York Post](http://nypost.com): nypost.com
- [The New York Times | N.Y.:](http://nytimes.com/section/nyregion) nytimes.com/section/nyregion
- [Next City](http://nextcity.org): nextcity.org
- [Observer | Politics](http://observer.com/politics): observer.com/politics
- [Politico | New York](http://politico.com/states/new-york): politico.com/states/new-york
- [Streetsblog | NYC](http://nyc.streetsblog.org): nyc.streetsblog.org
- [Times Union | Capitol Confidential](http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol): blog.timesunion.com/capitol
- [The Village Voice](http://villagevoice.com): villagevoice.com
- [Wall Street Journal](http://wsj.com): wsj.com

Academic Resources

- [Center for an Urban Future](http://nycfuture.org): nycfuture.org
- [Citizens Budget Commission](http://cbcny.org): cbcny.org
- [Empire Center for Public Policy](http://empirecenter.org): empirecenter.org
- [Fiscal Policy Institute](http://fiscalpolicy.org): fiscalpolicy.org
- [Manhattan Institute for Policy Research](http://manhattan-institute.org): manhattan-institute.org
- [Museum of the City of New York | The Greatest Grid](http://thegreatestgrid.mcnyc.org): thegreatestgrid.mcnyc.org
- [NYU Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy](http://furmancenter.org): furmancenter.org
- [NYU Rudin Center for Transportation Policy & Management](http://wagner.nyu.edu/rudincenter): wagner.nyu.edu/rudincenter
- [The Center for New York City Affairs at The New School](http://centernyc.org): centernyc.org

Government Agencies

- [Department of City Planning](http://nyc.gov/planning): nyc.gov/planning
- [Independent Budget Office of the City of New York](http://ibo.nyc.ny.us): ibo.nyc.ny.us
- [Mayor's Office of Management and Budget](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/omb/index.page): www1.nyc.gov/site/omb/index.page
- [NYC OpenData](http://opendata.cityofnewyork.us): opendata.cityofnewyork.us
- [Office of the New York State Comptroller](http://osc.state.ny.us): osc.state.ny.us

Podcasts

- [10 Blocks, City Journal](#)
- [The Bowery Boys: New York City History](#)
- [Break in the Case, New York](#)
- [The Brian Lehrer Show, WNYC](#)
- [Brooklyn Deep Third Rail](#)
- [Brooklyn, USA](#)
- [City Between - A New York History Podcast](#)
- [The City Concealed | THIRTEEN](#)
- [FAQ NYC](#)
- [Flatbush + Main: A Podcast from the Brooklyn Historical Society](#)
- [Firewall](#)

- [Max & Murphy, City Limits and Gotham Gazette](#)
- [New York NOW, WMHT](#)
- [NYCEDC Economic Snapshot](#)
- [Public Affairs and Government, CUNY - Baruch College](#)
- [Secrets of NYC, NYC Media](#)
- [What's the \[DATA\] Point?, Citizens Budget Commission and Gotham Gazette](#)

NYU Classes

Students will use NYU Classes in this course to:

- View the most updated version of the course syllabus
- Read course announcements
- Access presentation slides used in previous weeks' lectures
- Retrieve any assigned and suggested readings (Lessons tab)
- Submit assignments

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. All students enrolled in this class are required to read and abide by [Wagner's Academic Code](#). All Wagner students have already read and signed the [Wagner Academic Oath](#). Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated and students in this class are expected to report violations to me. If any student in this class is unsure about what is expected of you and how to abide by the academic code, you should consult with me.

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at NYU

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the [Moses Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\) website](#) and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or email CSD (at 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

[NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#) states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Please notify me in advance of religious holidays that might coincide with exams to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives.

Assignments and Grading

Assignments must be submitted as a Word Document to NYU Classes by the due date and time denoted on the syllabus. It is your responsibility to check that the uploaded assignment is in the correct file format and accessible, or the assignment will be penalized for lateness. All submitted assignments will be run through TurnItIn. Your final grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

Midterm Exam (30%)

The midterm exam will be a take-home assignment in which you will compose short answer responses to a set of prompts relating to the course topics covered during the first half of the semester. Formulate your answers using all relevant course materials, write with brevity and purpose, and be sure to properly cite all your sources. I will post more detailed instructions in

regards to content, format, and submission for each of the written assignments you will complete for this course on NYU Classes further into the semester.

Policy Memo (35%)

Detailed assignment instructions will be posted on NYU Classes later in the semester.

Final Exam (35%)

The final exam will take the same form as the midterm: a take-home assignment in which you will compose short answer responses to a set of prompts relating to the course topics covered during the second half of the semester.

Late Policy

Assignment deadline extensions will be granted in cases of emergencies. Assignments submitted late without extensions will be penalized.

Overview of the Semester

Week 1	09/02/2020	What Makes New York New York: Demographic Patterns of Ethnic and Racial Change
—	09/09/2020	NO CLASS – Monday Schedule
Week 2	09/16/2020	Power and Authority in NYC Government: The City Charter, Mayor, and City Council Guest Speaker: William Heinzen, Deputy Commissioner of the NYC TLC
Week 3	09/23/2020	A Mayor Makes a Difference: La Guardia, Wagner, Lindsey, Beam, Koch, Dinkins, Giuliani, Bloomberg, De Blasio
Week 4	09/30/2020	How Disasters Shape NYC Policies: The 1832 Cholera Epidemic, 1918 Flu, September 11 th , the 2008 Financial Crisis, COVID-19 Guest Speaker: Kathryn Garcia, Commissioner of DSNY Midterm exam instructions posted to NYU Classes
Week 5	10/07/2020	How NYC Raises and Spends Money Guest Speaker: Doug Turetsky, Chief of Staff/Communications Director of the NYC Independent Budget Office
Week 6	10/14/2020	Planning, Preservation, and Development + Caro's <i>The Power Broker</i>
Week 7	10/21/2020	Transportation Politics: The MTA, the Port Authority, and Mobility Guest Speaker: Nicole Gelinas, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute Midterm Exam due by 4:55 p.m.
Week 8	10/28/2020	The Politics of Public Safety
Week 9	11/04/2020	Presidential Election & its Impact on NYC Guest Speaker: Lincoln Mitchell, Associate Professor of Political Science at Columbia University Policy Memo instructions posted to NYU Classes
Week 10	11/11/2020	Political Protests + How Federal and State Policies Influence New York City Guest Speaker: Michael Laskaway, Visiting Scholar at NYU and former Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor
Week 11	11/18/2020	Conflicting Priorities in Economic Development: The Battle over Amazon, the 2012 Olympics and Hudson Yards, and Industry City

		Guest Speaker: Carlos Menchaca, NYC City Council Member of District 38 and Chair of the Committee on Immigration Policy Memo Topic Proposal due
Week 12	11/25/2020	School Politics: Mayoral Control, Race, Achievement, and Choice
Week 13	12/02/2020	Voting, Participation, and Public Financing of City Elections Submit policy memo to NYU Classes by 4:55 p.m. Final exam instructions posted to NYU Classes
Week 14	12/09/2020	The Coronavirus Pandemic and the Future of New York City
—	12/16/2020	Submit final exam to NYU Classes by 4:55 p.m.