

**URPL-GP 2415**

**Public Policy and Planning in New York**

**Fall 2023**

**Instructor Information**

* Professor Mitchell L. Moss
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  + Office Hours: Mondays 3:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Course Information**

* Class Meeting Times: Wednesdays 4:55-6:35 p.m.
* Class Location: Silver Center, Rm. 401

**Course Description**

New York City is the nation's largest city, with 8.3 million people and a municipal budget of more than $100 billion. This course will describe and analyze the government of New York City, the demographic and economic forces that influence its political life, and the respective roles of the mayor, city council, and key elected officials. The course will explore public policies for criminal justice, economic development, education, climate change, transportation, planning and preservation, and immigration. The class will also focus on demographic trends affecting voting and elections, and the ways in which disasters have shaped the city over the past two centuries.

The course readings are accessible online and students will be expected to do the required readings prior to the assigned class session. The course requirements will include a midterm exam, final exam, and a policy memo that focuses on a current public policy or project in New York City.

**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**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Learning assessment table: Course objectives covered for each graded assignment |  |
| **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 |
| Participation | #1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 |

**Required Readings**

Students will be expected to have read the required readings assigned for a given week prior to lecture. All required readings will be accessible online via Brightspace. Students must rent or purchase the following text at the NYU Bookstore or elsewhere:

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

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. However, students should revisit the suggested readings when composing their midterm and final exams. 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 on Brightspace for that corresponding week.

**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:](https://www.amny.com/) amny.com
* [Bklyner.:](https://bklyner.com/) bklyner.com
* [Chalkbeat | New York](https://www.chalkbeat.org/ny/): chalkbeat.org/ny
* [THE CITY:](https://thecity.nyc/) city.nyc
* [City & State New York](https://www.cityandstateny.com/): cityandstateny.com
* [City Journal:](https://www.city-journal.org/) city-journal.org
* [City Lab | New York:](https://www.citylab.com/locations/cities/new-york/) citylab.com/locations/cities/new-york/
* [City Limits:](https://citylimits.org/) citylimits.org
* [Crain’s Business New York](https://www.crainsnewyork.com/): crainsnewyork.com
* [Curbed New York](https://brightspace.nyu.edu/content/enforced/299701-FA23_URPL-GP_2415_1_001/ny.curbed.com?_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY): ny.curbed.com
* [Daily Intelligencer, New York Magazine](http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/): nymag.com/daily/intelligencer
* [Daily Politics (NY Daily News blog):](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/) nydailynews.com/news/politics/
* [Gothamist](https://brightspace.nyu.edu/content/enforced/299701-FA23_URPL-GP_2415_1_001/gothamist.com?_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY&_&d2lSessionVal=bckqKjpBfIYE4FR3qK37wgiKY): gothamist.com
* [New York Focus](https://nysfocus.com/): nysfocus.com
* [New York Post:](https://nypost.com/) nypost.com
* [The New York Times | N.Y.:](http://nytimes.com/section/nyregion) nytimes.com/section/nyregion
* [Politico | New York](https://www.politico.com/states/new-york): politico.com/states/new-york
* [Spectrum News NY1](https://brightspace.nyu.edu/content/enforced/299701-FA23_URPL-GP_2415_1_001/ny1.com): ny1.com
* [Streetsblog | NYC:](https://nyc.streetsblog.org/) nyc.streetsblog.org
* [Times Union | Capitol Confidential](https://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/): blog.timesunion.com/capitol
* [The Village Voice:](https://www.villagevoice.com/) villagevoice.com
* [Wall Street Journal:](https://www.wsj.com/) wsj.com

**Academic Resources**

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

**Government Agencies**

* [Department of City Planning:](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/index.page) nyc.gov/planning
* [Independent Budget Office of the City of New York](http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/): ibo.nyc.ny.us
* [Mayor’s Office of Management and Budget](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/omb/index.page): www1.nyc.gov/site/omb/index.page
* [NYC OpenData:](https://opendata.cityofnewyork.us/) opendata.cityofnewyork.us
* [Office of the New York City Comptroller](https://brightspace.nyu.edu/content/enforced/299701-FA23_URPL-GP_2415_1_001/comptroller.nyc.gov): comptroller.nyc.gov
* [Office of the New York State Comptroller](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/): osc.state.ny.us

**Podcasts**

* [10 Blocks, City Journal](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/city-journals-10-blocks/id273130612?mt=2)
* [The Bowery Boys: New York City History](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-bowery-boys-new-york-city-history/id258530615?mt=2)
* [Break in the Case, New York](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/break-in-the-case/id1483868671)
* [The Brian Lehrer Show, WNYC](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-brian-lehrer-show/id73331636?mt=2)
* [Brooklyn Deep Third Rail](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/brooklyn-deep-third-rail/id834770888?mt=2)
* [Brooklyn, USA](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/brooklyn-usa/id1166364708?mt=2)
* [The City Concealed | THIRTEEN](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-city-concealed-thirteen/id343870610?mt=2)
* [FAQ NYC](https://faq.nyc/)
* [Flatbush + Main: A Podcast from the Brooklyn Historical Society](https://www.bklynlibrary.org/podcasts/flatbush-main)
* [Firewall](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/firewall/id1199693682)
* [Max & Murphy, City Limits and Gotham Gazette](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/max-murphy/id1143579069?mt=2)
* [New York NOW, WMHT](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/new-york-now/id672341970?mt=2)
* [NYCEDC Economic Snapshot](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/nycedc-economic-snapshot/id406252932?mt=2)
* [Public Affairs and Government, CUNY - Baruch College](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/public-affairs-and-government/id556537484?mt=2)
* [Secrets of NYC, NYC Media](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/secrets-of-new-york/id446120016?mt=2)
* [What's the [DATA] Point? Citizens Budget Commission and Gotham Gazette](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/whats-the-data-point/id1246487663?mt=2)

**Brightspace**

Students will use Brightspace 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), and
* 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](https://wagner.nyu.edu/portal/students/policies/code). All Wagner students have already read and signed the [Wagner Academic Oath](https://wagner.nyu.edu/portal/students/policies/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](https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html) and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or email CSD (at 212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto: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](https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html) 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 Brightspace 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 Brightspace further into the semester.

**Policy Memo (30%)**

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

**Final Exam (30%)**

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.

**Participation (10%)**

Students should come to class prepared to discuss the main themes and policy approaches expressed in the assigned readings.

**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** | **Date** | **Lecture Topic and Deliverables** |
| 1 | 09/06/2023 | What Makes New York New York |
| 2 | 09/13/2023 | Demographic Change and Immigration |
| 3 | 09/20/2023 | Immigrants: Homelessness and City Policies |
| 4 | 09/27/2023 | Power and Politics in New York City, Pt. I |
| 5 | 10/04/2023 | Power and Politics in New York City, Pt. II  **>> Midterm exam instructions posted to Brightspace** |
| 6 | 10/11/2023 | How NYC Raises and Spends Money |
| 7 | 10/18/2023 | The MTA and the Port Authority of NY & NJ  **>> Submit midterm exam to Brightspace by 4:55 p.m.**  **>> Policy memo instructions posted to Brightspace** |
| 8 | 10/25/2023 | How Urban Planning Has Shaped New York  **>> Submit policy memo topic proposal to Brightspace by 4:55 p.m.** |
| 9 | 11/01/2023 | Robert Moses and *The Power Broker* |
| 10 | 11/08/2023 | How Disasters Shape New York City |
| 11 | 11/15/2023 | The Pandemic's Impact on Neighborhoods and the Economy  **>> Submit policy memo to Brightspace by 4:55 p.m.** |
| 12 | 11/29/2023 | Community Conflict  **>> Final exam instructions posted to Brightspace** |
| 13 | 12/06/2023 | Public Safety and the Closing of Rikers Island |
| 14 | 12/13/2023 | The Future of New York  **>> Submit final exam to Brightspace by 4:55 p.m.** |