

URPL-GP.2415: PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING IN NEW YORK CITY
New York University
Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service

Fall 2011, Monday 4:55-5:35pm
194 Mercer Street Rm 306

Office Hours: Monday 2-4pm
(And by appointment)

Professor Mitchell L. Moss
Office: 295 Lafayette Street, 3rd floor
Telephone: 212-998-6677
Email: mitchell.moss@nyu.edu

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of New York City's governments and politics. We will examine the role of the mayor and other elected officials, organization of the municipal government, and the way in which state and regional governments affect public services and city policies. The course will explore the way in which political and economic forces affect public policies for planning and physical development, public schools, economic development, disaster management, redevelopment of lower Manhattan, congestion pricing, and waterfront development.

Required Texts:

Bruce Berg, New York City Politics: Governing Gotham, Rutgers University Press, 2007.
Robert Caro, The Power Broker: Robert Moses and The Fall of New York, Doubleday, 1975
Pete Hamill, Downtown: My Manhattan, Back Bay Books, 2004

Recommended:

David Scobey, Empire City: The Making and Meaning of the New York City Landscape, Temple University Press, 2002
James Glanz and Eric Lipton, City in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of the World Trade Center, Times Books, 2003
Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn, 102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers. Times Books, 2004.
Keith D. Revell. Building Gotham: Civic Culture and Public Policy in New York City, 1898-1938, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.
Eric Homberger. The Historical Atlas of New York City: A Visual Celebration of 400 Years of New York City's History. Henry Holt and Co., 2005.
David C. Hammack. Power and Society: Greater New York at the Turn of the Century. Columbia University Press, 1982.
Thomas Hoving, Making the Mummies Dance: Inside the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Simon and Schuster, 1993,
Philip Kasinitz et al, Becoming New Yorkers: Ethnographies of the Second Generation, Russell Sage Foundation, 2004
Jeffrey A. Kroessler, New York Year by Year, NYU Press, 2002.
Chris McNickle, To Be Mayor of New York: Ethnic Politics in the City, Columbia University Press, 1993
Max Page. The Creative Destruction of Manhattan 1900-1940. University of Chicago Press, 1999.
Russell Shorto. The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic story of Dutch Manhattan, the forgotten colony that shaped America. Doubleday, 2004.

Website Resources:

New York City Gov: www.nyc.gov
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>
Citizens' Budget Commission: www.cbc.org
Curbed: <http://curbed.com/>
Gothamist: <http://gothamist.com/>
Gotham Gazette, www.gothamsazette.org
The Politicker: <http://www.politicker.com/>
City Room: <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/>
The Daily Politics: www.thedailypolitics.com
Plan NYC: <http://www.plannyc.org/>
Times union blog: blogs.timesunion.com/capitol
Wall Street Journal Blog: blogs.wsj.com/metropolis
New York Magazine: nymag.com/daily/intel
Gawker: www.gawker.com
New York Post: www.nypost.com/blogs/knickerbocker
Observer- politics: www.observer.com/politics
Room eight: www.r8ny.com
Education: www.gothamschools.org

Course Requirements:

Students should do the required reading, most of which is accessible through the required books and at the Blackboard site for this course. The course grade will be based on written work. Students will be required to submit four one-page papers, (250-300 words), a take-home mid-term exam, and a research paper (2000 words) dealing with a public policy or 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. The requirements for the short papers and research paper will be posted on the course blackboard site.

Week 1 | September 12**The World Trade Center Site and the Renewal Lower Manhattan****Required:**

- 1.1 Andrew Rice, "The Saving of Ground Zero," Bloomberg Business week, August 3, 2011
- 1.2 Julie Iovine, "The Skyscraper as a Pillar of Confidence, The Wall Street Journal. September 8, 2011
- 1.3 Kenneth Anderson, "Of 9/11 Memorials, Monuments, and the WTC," The Volokh Conspiracy, September 11, 2011, <http://volokh.com/2011/09/11/-of-911-memorials-monuments-snd-the...>
- 1.4 Paul Goldberger, "Shaping the Void," The New Yorker, September 12, 2011
- 1.5 James Glanz and Eric Lipton, City in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of the World Trade Center, Times Books, 2003. (Optional)
- 1.6 Ada Louise Huxtable, "In the Fray: Death of the Dream for the Ground Zero Site," The Wall Street Journal, April 20, 2005.
- 1.7 Jonathan Mahler, "The Bloomberg Vista," The New York Times Magazine, September 10, 2006.
- 1.8 Mitchell L. Moss, "The Redevelopment of Lower Manhattan: The Role of the City, in The Contentious City, edited by John Mollenkopf, Russell Sage Foundation, 2005.(optional)
- 1.9 Mike O'Brien, "Meaningful adjacencies: The incredible way the names of victims are arranged at the 9/11 Memorial pools," Mail Online, 11 September 2011, www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2035887/GROUND-ZERO

Week 2 | September 19

What Makes NY from Other Cities

(First Assignment Due: In 250-300 words identify what you think are the three most important characteristics of the city's population.)

Required:

- 2.1 NYC Department of City Planning, New York City Population Projections by Age/Sex & <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/pdf/census/sociopp.pdf>
- 2.2 Ed Glaser, "The Reinventive City," City Journal, 2009. Pg 6-14
- 2.3 NYC Department of City Planning, http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/census/pop_facts.shtml
- 2.4 Pete Hamill, Downtown: My Manhattan, pp1.-180
- 2.5 Andrew Beveridge, "Ten Years Later: Enumerating the Loss at Ground Zero," Sept. 2011, www.gothamgazette.com
- 2.6 Philip Kasinitz et al, eds. Inheriting the City: The Children of Immigrants Come of Age, Harvard University Press, 2008, on Blackboard (optional)

Week 3: September 26

(Second assignment due: In 250-300 words, identify the key sources of the power of the mayor of New York City.)

The City Charter and Structure of Municipal Government

Required:

- 3.1 City of New York, City Charter, Introduction, Chapters 1: Mayor, Chapter 2: Council Online: <http://www.nyc.gov>. Also: City Organization Chart
- 3.2 Final Report of the 2010 New York City Charter Revision Commission, August 23, 2010, Part One, Section One, "Term Limits," pp.3-11.
- 3.3 Bruce Berg, New York City Politics: Governing Gotham, 2008, chapters 7,8,9, pp. 180-280.
- 3.4 Joseph P. Vitteritti, "The Tradition of Municipal Reform: Charter Reform in Historical Context." in Restructuring the New York City Government: The Reemergence of Municipal Reform, 1989, pp.16-30.
- 3.5 Francis S. Barry, The Scandal of Reform, Rutgers University Press, 2009, chapters 10, 11, pp.142-182.
- 3.6 Wallace Sayre and Herbert Kaufman: "Chapter 3: Contestants for the Prizes" and Chapter 19: Risks, Rewards and Remedies, "Governing New York City". 1965. (optional)
- 3.7 Sewell Chan, "Debating the Pros and Cons of Term Limits," The New York Times, Cityroom, October 15, 2008. (optional)

Week 4 | October 3

(Third Assignment: In 250-300 words, identify three ways in which the state government influences NYC government)

State Government and Regional Authorities

Required:

- 4.1 Bruce E. Berg, New York City Politics: Governing Gotham, pp 58-119, pp 545-560, pp.35-54.
- 4.2 Robert B. Ward, New York State Government, 2nd edition, Rockefeller Institute Press, 2008, chapters 3,11,18,19.
- 4.3 Robert Pecorella, "The Two New Yorks in the Twenty-First Century," in R. Pecorella and J. Stonecash eds., Governing New York State, fifth edition, pp.7-26.
- 4.4 Gerald Benjamin and Richard P. Nathan, Regionalism and Realism: A Study of Governments in the New York Metropolitan Area. The Brookings Institution Press, 2001, chapters 3, 6, 7,8, pp. 53-76, pp.107-160.

- 4.5 Keith Henderson, "Other Governments: The Public Authorities," in R. Pecorella and J. Stonecash eds. Governing New York State, pp.225-241.
- 4.6 Brennan Center for Justice, New York University Law School, Unfinished Business, 2006, http://brennan.3cdn.net/0961322f1132c4f8b4_u9m6ivo30.pdf
- 4.7 Jameson Doig, "Epilogue: Triumphs and Travails of an Aging Empire" in Empire on the Hudson, Columbia University Press, 2001, pp. 373- 402. (optional)

Resources:

- <http://www.panynj.gov/annualreport/arframe.html>
- <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us>

Week 5 | October 17

Mayoral Power and Influence: LaGuardia, Wagner, Lindsay, and Beame

Required:

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 Vincent J. Cannato: "Chapter 15: Assessing the Lindsay Years," The Ungovernable City: John Lindsay and His Struggle to Save New York, chapters 15, pp. 525-553. Basic Books, 2001.
- 5.4 Robert Caro, The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York, pp. 615-806.
- 5.5 Salvatore J. LaGumina, "Faith, Power, and Identity: Catholics in New York Politics," Catholics in New York: Society, Culture, and Politics 1808-1946, Fordham University Press, 2008. (optional)

Week 6 | October 24

Mayors Cope with Crises: Koch, Dinkins and Giuliani

Required:

- 6.1 Jonathan Mahler, The Bronx is Burning, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005, pp. 216-234.
- 6.2 Pete Hamill, "Personality with a Point," Michael Goodwin ed., New York Comes Back: the Mayoralty of Edward I. Koch, Powerhouse Books, NY, 2006, pp. 37-41.
- 6.3 John Mollenkopf, "A Changing City," in Michael Goodwin ed. New York Comes Back: the Mayoralty of Edward I. Koch. NY 2006, pp. 57-61.
- 6.4 John Mollenkopf, A Phoenix in the Ashes, Princeton University Press, chapter 8 and Afterword, pp.190-227.
- 6.5 Joelle Attinger, "The Decline of New York," Time, September 17, 1990, pp. 36-44.
- 6.6 Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "Defining Deviancy Downward," in Miles to Go: A Personal History of Social Policy, Harvard University Press, 1996, chapter 3, pp.138-169.
- 6.7 Wilbur C. Rich, David Dinkins and New York City Politics, State University of NY Press, 2007, chapter 3, pp.63-81.
- 6.8 Richard Girgenti, A Report to the Governor on the Disturbances in Crown Heights. New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, 1992. (Optional).

Week 7 | October 31

(Fourth Paper: In 250-300 words, identify the sources of revenue that New York City depends on.)

How NYC Raises and Spends Public Money

Required:

- 7.1 Dick Netzer, "Chapter 2: The Economy and the Governing of the City," Urban Politics: New York Style, 1990.
- 7.2 City of New York Executive Budget Fiscal Year 2012; Budget Summary, Office of Management and Budget, 2011, <http://www.nyc.gov/html/omb/>
- 7.3 New York City Independent Budget Office: "Enhancing Official and Public Understanding of the Budget." "Budget and Financial Plan Timetable" <http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/may9601.html>

- 7.4 Nicole Gelinas, "New York's Coming Fiscal Crisis," City Journal, 2008.
- 7.5 Steven Malanga, "The City's Finances, Part 2: Budget-Cutting Made Simple," City Journal, 2009, pp. 19-21.

Resources:

- Citizens Budget Commission: <http://www.cbcnyc.org/>
- New York City Council- Finance Committee: <http://www.council.nyc.ny.us/committees/>
- OMB: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/omb/html/budpubs.html>

Week 8 | November 7
The Politics of Public Safety

Required:

- 8.1 www.nytimes.com/homicides
- 8.2 Glenn Corbett, "Control," and Michael Powell, "Sensitivity," in Robert Polner ed. America's Mayor, America's President: The Strange Career of Rudy Giuliani, pp. 9-16 and 39-44.
- 8.3 Wayne Barrett and Dan Collins, The Grand Illusion: The Untold Story of Rudy Giuliani and 9/11, Harper Collins, 2006, chapter 2, pp. 27-78. Chapter 4, pp. 103-135.
- 8.4 Michael Jacobson, "From the Back to the Front: The Changing Character of Punishment in New York City," Rethinking the Urban Agenda, 2001, pp.274-299.
- 8.5 William Finnegan, The New Yorker, July 25, 2006, "The Terrorism Beat."
- 8.6 George Kelling, "How New York Became Safe: The Full Story," City Journal, 2009, pp.92-98.

Week 9 | November 14
Land Use Planning, Landmark Preservation, and Physical Development

Required:

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 "Remarks of David Karnofsky, General Counsel, Department of City Planning at June 24, 2010 Meeting of NYC Charter Revision Commission on Land Use, Flushing, Queens"
- 9.3 Edward K Spann, "Chapter 1: The Greatest Grid: the New York Plan of 1811," in Two Centuries of American Planning, 1988.
- 9.4 Witold Rybczynski, "Don't Plan on It: Centralized city planning is not the answer to the problems facing America's cities," slate.com, March 31, 2010, www.slate.com/formatdynamics/CleanPrintProxy.aspx?12701
- 9.5 David M. Scobey: Empire City: The Making and Meaning of the New York City Landscape, Temple University Press, 2002, chapters 1-4.
- 9.6 New York City Department of City Planning, Zoning Handbook, 2006. Also see: "Strategic Plan" and Status of Department of City Planning Initiatives: Chronological by Borough." www.nyc.gov/planning
- 9.7 Norman Marcus, "Brief History of the Zoning Resolution," in Zoning for a New Century, 2000. pp. 11-16. (optional)
- 9.8 John R. Tatulli, "Charter Section 197-a: A Tool for Community Development, City Law, January/February, 2005. Volume 11, No. 1. (optional)

Week 10 | November 21
Robert Moses and His Impact on Physical Development

Required:

- 10.1 Robert Caro, The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York, Doubleday, 1975, pp.807-1016
- 10.2 Anthony Flint, Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took On New York's Master Builder and Transformed the American City, Random House, 2009. chapter 3.

- 10.3 Hillary Ballon and Kenneth Jackson editors, Robert Moses and the Modern City: The Transformation of New York, 2007, see K. Jackson, "The Power Broker in Perspective." pp.67-71.
- 10.4 Michael Powell, "A Tale of Two Cities." The New York Times, May 6, 2007.

Week 11 | December 5

Mayoral Control of the Public Schools

Required:

- 11.1 David Rogers, Mayoral Control of the New York City Schools, Springer, 2009, chapters 3,4,5.
- 11.2 Clara Hemphill and Kim Nauer, Managing by the Numbers: Empowerment and Accountability in New York City's Schools, June 2010.
- 11.3 Diane Ravitch, "Student Achievement in New York City: The NAEP Results," in New York City Schools Under Bloomberg and Klein: What Parents, Teachers, and Policymakers Need to Know, Essays by Diane Ravitch et al, Lulu, 2009.
- 11.4 How New York City's Charter Schools Affect Achievement, The New York City Charter Schools Evaluation Project, September, 2009, www.nber.org-schoolseval
- 11.5 [www.hechinger Report.org](http://www.hechinger.org)
- 11.6 www.GothamSchools.org

Week 12 | December 12

The Politics of Transportation: Streets, Congestion Pricing, and Mass Transit

Required:

- 12.1 Sustainable Streets: Strategic Plan for the New York City Department of Transportation, 2008 and Beyond, www.nyc.gov/dot
- 12.2 Necessity or Choice? Why People Drive in Manhattan, Prepared for Transportation Alternatives, September, 2005, Schaller Consulting.
- 12.3 The City of New York, PLANYC: A Greener, Greater New York, <http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/html/downloads/the-plan.shtml>
- 12.4 Queens Chamber of Commerce, A Cure Worse than the Disease: How London's "Congestion Pricing" System Could Hurt New York City's Economy, February, 2006.
- 12.5 http://www.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/empire_zone/20070425_congestion.pdf
- 12.6 Transportation Alternatives, Streets to Live By: How Livable street design can bring economic, health and quality of life benefits to New York City, August, 2008. www.transalt.org

Week 13 | December 14 (Wednesday)

The Politics of Disasters: Snow, Floods, Power Outages, Epidemics, Hurricanes, and Terrorism

Readings to be assigned...