Fall 2009, Monday 4:55-5:35pm
20 Cooper Square, Room 761

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

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This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of New York City's governments and politics. We will examine the changing 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 with an emphasis on land use planning and physical development, mayoral control of public schools, economic development, the redevelopment of lower Manhattan, congestion pricing, and waterfront development.

Required Texts:
Pete Hamill, *Downtown: My Manhattan*, Back Bay Books, 2004

Recommended:
Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn, *102 Minutes*

Related Website Resources:
NYC Independent Budget Office: [http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us](http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us)
NY State Office of the Comptroller: [http://www.osc.state.ny.us](http://www.osc.state.ny.us)
NYC Department of City Planning: [http://www.nyc.gov/planning](http://www.nyc.gov/planning)
Gotham Gazette: [http://www.gothamgazette.com](http://www.gothamgazette.com)

Course Requirements:
All 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 three short papers, (300-500 words) and a research paper (2000 words) dealing with a public policy or community conflict in New York City. There will also be a take-home exam. 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 post on the course blackboard site.
Week 1 | September 14
How New York Differs from other Cities: Demographic and Economic Trends
Required:
1.3 Pete Hamill, Downtown: My Manhattan, pp1.-78
1.4 Philip Kasinitz et al, eds. Inheriting the City: The Children of Immigrants Come of Age, Harvard University Press, 2008, on Blackboard

Week 2 | September 21
(First Assignment Due: In 500 words or less, drawing upon the City Charter, describe the three most important powers of the Mayor of the City of New York.)
The City Charter and Structure of Municipal Government
Required:
2.1 City of New York, City Charter, Introduction, Chapters 1: Mayor, Chapter 2: Council Online: http://www.nyc.gov. Also: City Organization Chart
2.4 Sewell Chan, "Debating the Pros and Cons of Term Limits," The New York Times, Cityroom, October 15, 2008. (optional)
2.6 Wallace Sayre and Herbert Kaufman: "Chapter 3: Contestants for the Prizes” and Chapter 19: Risks, Rewards and Remedies, "Governing New York City. 1965. (optional)

Week 3 | September 28
State Government and Regional Authorities
Required:

Resources:
- http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us
Week 4 | October 5
Mayoral Power and Influence: LaGuardia to Lindsay
Required:
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.

Week 5 | October 12
The “Fiscal Crisis” of the 1970’s, Black-outs, and Racial Conflict: Beame, Koch, and Dinkins
Required:
5.5 Joelle Attinger, "The Decline of New York," Time, September 17, 1990, pp. 36-44.

Week 6 | October 19
Public Safety and September 11th
Required:

Week 7 | October 26
How NYC Raises and Spends Public Money
Required:


Resources:
- Citizens Budget Commission: [http://www.cbcny.org/]
- New York City Council- Finance Committee: [http://www.council.nyc.ny.us/committees/]

Week 8 | November 2
(Second Assignment Due: Explain how race, ethnicity, and gender have influenced the race for Mayor; 500 words or less.)

Campaign Finance, Elections, Political Reform
8.2 Bruce Berg, New York City Politics, chapters 5, 6, pp. 120-179.

Week 9 | November 9
Land Use Planning, Landmark Preservation, and Physical Development
Required:
9.3 Pete Hamill, Downtown: My Manhattan, chapters 4-8, pp. 79-180
9.5 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]

Week 10 | November 16
(Third Assignment Due: How did Robert Moses influence the physical development of New York City)
Robert Moses and His Impact on Physical Development
Required:
Week 11 | November 23  
**Mayoral Control of the Public Schools**  
**Required:**  
11.4 www.GothamSchools.org

Week 12 | November 30  
**The Politics of Parks, Streets and the Waterfront**  
**Required:**  
12.3 The City of New York, PLANYC: A Greener, Greater New York,  
12.4 Coney Island Plan  
http://www.thecidc.org/Planning/RezoningPlan.html  
http://www.thecidc.org/News/PressKit.html  
12.5 Sunset Park Plan  
http://www.nycedc.com/PressRoom/PressReleases/Pages/MayorBloombergAnnouncesBrooklynsWaterfront.aspx  
12.6 East River Plan  
http://www.nycedc.com/PressRoom/PressReleases/Pages/MayorBloombergBreaksGroundonEastRiverWaterfront.aspx  
12.8 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 7  
**The World Trade Center Site and the Redevelopment of Lower Manhattan**  
**Required:**  

13.6 Ada Louise Huxtable, "In the Fray: New York’s 9/11 Site needed not a Moses but a Logue,” The Wall Street Journal, August 27, 2008. (Optional)

**Week 14 | December 14**

**The Future of New York**


14.4 reading to be assigned...