Spring 2010, Monday & Wednesday 11:00AM-12:15PM
Silver Center, Room 509

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

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New York City is the largest city in the United States and is the nation’s cultural, financial and information capital. This course examines the political and governmental processes that influence New York City. The first half of the course will examine the role of the mayor and other elected officials, the budget process, and the way in which state and regional governments affect public services and city policies. During the second half of the course, specific policies will be analyzed, including: land use planning, waterfront development, economic development, the politics of renewal at the World Trade Center site, and congestion pricing.

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

Suggested Background Reading:
James Glanz and Eric Lipton, City in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of the World Trade Center, Times Books, 2003
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.
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 a major research paper dealing with a 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.

January 20-25
How New York Differs from other Cities: Demographic and Economic Trends
Required:

January 28-February 1
The City Charter, Term Limits, and the Structure of Municipal Government
Required:
- City of New York, City Charter, Introduction, Chapters 1: Mayor, Chapter 2: Council Online: http://www.nyc.gov. Also: City Organization Chart
- Pete Hamill, Downtown: My Manhattan, pp1.-78
February 3
Mayoral Power and Influence: LaGuardia to Lindsay
Required:
- 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.

February 8-10
"1970's Fiscal Crisis, Black-outs, and Racial Conflict: Beame, Koch, and Dinkins
Required:

February 17-22
State Government and Regional Authorities
Required:
- Resources:
  - http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us

February 24
The Politics of the Budget
Required:

Resources:
March 1-3
Crime and Public Safety
Required:

March 8-10
Planning, Development and Historic Preservation
Required:
- Pete Hamill, Downtown: My Manhattan, chapters 4-8, pp. 79-180
- 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

March 15-20 -Spring Break

March 22-24
Mayoral Control of the Public Schools
Required:
- Gail Robinson, "Choosing Sides in the Fight Over Schools," Gotham Gazette, 17, Nov 2008,
March 29-31
Robert Moses and His Impact on Physical Development
Required:

April 5-7
The World Trade Center Site and the Redevelopment of Lower Manhattan
Required:

Resources:
- Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, [www.renewnewyork.org](http://www.renewnewyork.org)
- Alliance for Downtown New York.

April 12-14
Waterfront Planning and Development and Parks
Required:
  [http://www.thecicd.org/News/PressKit.html](http://www.thecicd.org/News/PressKit.html)
  [http://www.nycedc.com/PressRoom/PressReleases/Pages/MayorBloombergAnnouncesBrooklynsWaterfront.aspx](http://www.nycedc.com/PressRoom/PressReleases/Pages/MayorBloombergAnnouncesBrooklynsWaterfront.aspx)
April 19-21
Politics of Economic Development
Required:


April 26
Media and Politics
Readings to be assigned

April 28
Class Presentations