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:**

**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)
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 two 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 posted on the course blackboard site.

Week 1 | September 13
How New York Differs from other Cities: Demographic and Economic Trends
Required:
1.1 NYC Department of City Planning, New York City Population Projections by Age/Sex & Boroughs 2000-2030, Dec 2006
1.2 NYC Department of City Planning, POPULATION: Current Population Estimates
   http://www.nyc.gov/cgi-bin/misc/pfprinter.cgi?
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 20
(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
2.6 Wallace Sayre and Herbert Kaufman: "Chapter 3: Contestants for the Prizes" and Chapter 19: Risks, Rewards and Remedies, "Governing New York City. 1965. (optional)

2.7 Sewell Chan, "Debating the Pros and Cons of Term Limits," The New York Times, Cityroom, October 15, 2008. (optional)

**Week 3 | September 27**

**State Government and Regional Authorities**

**Required:**

- 3.6 Brennan Center for Justice, *Unfinished Business*, http://brennan.3cdn.net/0961322f1132c4f8b4_u9m6ivo30.pdf

**Resources:**

- [http://www.panynj.gov/annualreport/arframe.html](http://www.panynj.gov/annualreport/arframe.html)
- [http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us](http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us)

**Week 4 | October 4**

**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 11**

**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 18**

**How NYC Raises and Spends Public Money**

**Required:**


**Resources:**

- New York City Council- Finance Committee: [http://www.council.nyc.ny.us/committees/](http://www.council.nyc.ny.us/committees/)

**Week 7 | October 25**


**Required:**


**Week 8 | November 1: Money, Media and Political Parties**

(Second Assignment Due: What has been the role of New York City in the statewide elections?)

**Campaign Finance, Elections, Political Reform**

8.2 Bruce Berg, *New York City Politics*, chapters 5, 6, pp. 120-179.

**Week 9 | November 8**

**Land Use Planning, Landmark Preservation, and Physical Development**
Required:


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”


9.5 Pete Hamill, Downtown: My Manhattan, chapters 4-8, pp. 79-180


9.7 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 15
Robert Moses and His Impact on Physical Development
Required:


Week 11 | November 22
Mayoral Control of the Public Schools
Required:


11.2 Clara Hemphill and Kim Nauer, Managing by the Numbers: Empowerment and Accountability in New York City’s Schools, June 2010.


11.5 www.hechinger Report.org

11.6 www.GothamSchools.org

Week 12 | November 29
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 “Sustainable Streets Index, 2008, City of New York, Department of Transportation
12.3 Necessity or Choice? Why People Drive in Manhattan, Prepared for Transportation Alternatives, September, 2005, Schaller Consulting.
12.7 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 6
The World Trade Center Site and the Redevelopment of Lower Manhattan
Required:

Week 14 | December 13
http://www.thecidc.org/Planning/RezoningPlan.html
http://www.thecidc.org/News/PressKit.html
http://www.nycedc.com/PressRoom/PressReleases/Pages/MayorBloombergAnnouncesBrooklynsWaterfront.aspx
http://www.nycedc.com/PressRoom/PressReleases/Pages/MayorBloombergBreaksGroundonEastRiverWaterfront.aspx
12.4 Coney Island Plan
http://www.thecidc.org/Planning/RezoningPlan.html
http://www.thecidc.org/News/PressKit.html

14.9 Sunset Park Plan
http://www.nycedc.com/PressRoom/PressReleases/Pages/MayorBloombergAnnouncesBrooklynWaterfront.aspx

14.10 East River Plan
http://www.nycedc.com/PressRoom/PressReleases/Pages/MayorBloombergBreaksGroundonEastRiverWaterfront.aspx