Adjunct Professor: Jewell Jackson McCabe  Email: jewell.jacksonmccabe@nyu.edu
Class Meeting Times: Thursday. 11a -1:45p  
Class Location: Silver Center Block. 33 Washington Place. Rm.407

Contact: Rafael Hernandez  Email: rafael.hernandez@nyu.edu
Office Location: The Puck Building. 295 Lafayette St.
Office Telephone: 212.998.7477
Office Hours: By appointment. 2p-4p

January 27th  “Race, Class & Gender in American Cities” Introduction
This introduction gives an overview of the course, outline of the seminar themes, introduction of intersectional theory and a review of the syllabus and its relationship to seminar themes. These themes will be studied through readings, case-study discussions and guest lectures. [Assigned readings for Thursday 1.27 see page 5.]

This course examines the politics, status, trends and evolution of race, class, and gender in American cities. These themes were developed in the context of changing demographics, politics, community organizing, strategic partnerships, alliances and citizen-driven movements. Those movements, their doctrines and value systems will be explored through the prisms of race, class, and gender - key factors in the social transformation – in American cities. We will analyze growth and empowerment strategies, tactics and methodology utilized in attaining equity, access, opportunity, power and the allocation of city resources through public-private sector partnerships.

Eight questions guide the readings and discussions:

- How do groups gain political power?
- What are the strategies and mechanisms for excluding groups from power?
- How have groups sustained political power?
- What is the status of the women’s movement?
- What is the connection between race and gender in the power dynamics?
- What is the intersectional dynamic and political struggle in different cities?
- What is the impact of immigration on the political landscape in American Cities?
- What are the challenges and opportunities to advance equity in American Cities?

Required Texts


New York University
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Course Outline Spring 2011
P11.0019(001) “Race, Class & Gender in American Cities”


Additional Reading


- Giddings, Paula. IDA: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching, 832 pages Publisher: Harper; Reprint edition [Paperback & Kindle format] (2009);


- "The Interstitial Politics of Black Feminist Organizations" by Kimberly Springer, Smith College, Meridians Vol 1, no. 2 pp. 155-191(B);


- Kerner Commission: 1968 “Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders” (B);


- “A More Perfect Union” (speech) Candidate for President, Barack Obama, March 18, 2008;


“Grassroots, Glass Ceilings: Women Carry Civil Rights Groups but Aren’t Allowed to Lead”, Op-Ed The Washington Post, By Ann O’Hanlon April 18, 1993(B);

“Strains Within the NAACP: As Vote Nears, Jackson Is Reconsidering”, The Washington Post, By Lynne Duke, April 7, 1993(B);

“Coalition of Black Women Goes National”, The New York Times, By Nadine Brozan, October 26th, 1981(B);

“New Battler for Black Women”, Ebony Magazine, By Pamela Noel, February 1984(B);

“All Fired Up: Women, Feminism, and Misogyny in the Democratic Primaries”, by Christine Stansell, published by, Dissent Magazine, Fall 2008(B);


“Immigration” Commentary by Peter Coy, Bloomberg Business Week, May 3, 2010 (B);

Passel, Jeffrey S. & Cohn, D’Vera. Pew Research Center, “A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States, April 14, 2009 (B);
“More Immigration Losers: GOP hardliners need to face reality “Wall Street Journal, Review & Outlook”. December 2, 2008 (B);

“Surge in Hispanic Vote”, November 2008 (B). Working Immigrants. Posted by Peter Rousmaniere. February 3, 2009 (B);

Herman, Judy and Minnite, Lorrraine, “The Demographics of Voters in America’s 2008 General Election: A Preliminary Assessment”, Research Memo, Project Vote, November 18th, 2008 (B);

Williams, Juan. “What Obama’s Victory Means for Racial Politics”, Wall Street Journal, November 10th, 2008 (B);

Cobble, Steve and Velasquez, Joe. “Obama’s Latino Mandate,” The Nation, November 22, 2008 (B);

Lopez, Mark Hugo, “The Hispanic Vote in 2008 Election,” Pew Hispanic Center, November 7th, 2008 (B);


“Region Is Reshaped as Minorities Go to Suburbs” by Sam Roberts, The New York Times, December 15, 2010 (B);

Hirshman, Linda, “Looking to the Future, Feminism has to Focus”, Washington Post, June 8, 2008 (B);

Walker, Alice. “Lest We Forget”, the Root, March 27th, 2008 (B);

Questions for Nancy Pelosi, Minority Report Interview by Deborah Solomon, The New York Times Magazine, Published: November 18, 2010 (B);


- “The Vernacular Tradition: A Brief History” pp. 1-5; “Spirituals.” pp. 5; “Gospel” pp. 16-17; Sermons. pp. 69-70; Folktale. pp. 102-103 (B);
- “The Blues” pp. 22-23; “Secular Rhymes & Songs, Ballads, and Work Songs”, pp. 37; “Jazz” pp. 55-56; “R&B.” pp. 60 (B);
- “Letters from Birmingham Jail”, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (b.1929-1968) pp.1854-1866;
- “Woman a Vital Element in the Regeneration and Progress of a Race”, Anna Julia Cooper (b.1858-1964) pp. 553-569 (B);
- “The Damnation of Women”, W.E.B. Du Bois (b.1868-1963) pp. 740-752 (B);
- “Sula”, Part One, Toni Morrison, b.1931(pp. 2094-2098) pp. 2098-2177(B);
- “Notes of a Native Son”, James Baldwin (b.1924-1987) pp. 1679-1694(B);
New York University  
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service  
Course Outline Spring 2011  
P11.0019(001) “Race, Class & Gender in American Cities”


Suggested Reading

In addition to required text and the assigned reading, you will be required to stay abreast of current vital public sector issues by reading The New York Times & The Wall Street Journal; and, a course reader of required articles is available at the NYU Professional Bookstore, 530 LaGuardia Place. Copies of the reader will be on reserve at Bobst Library, with a 2-hour reserve time.

Course Requirements

- Attendance, Punctuality, and Class Participation: 15%
- Writing & Presentation assignments: 25%
- 48-hour Take-Home Midterm Exam: 30%
- Cumulative In-Class Final Exam: 30%

Grading Policy

Wagner’s grading scale is as follows: A/4.0, A-/3.7, B+/3.3, B/3.0, B-/2.7, C+/2.3, C/2.0, C-/1.7, and F/0.

Course Expectations

Each student will participate in three panels on a particular topic in the syllabus. For the week following the panel discussion, a paper on the same topic will be due. Students will be graded on both their panel presentations and paper:

- Panel Presentation: Each panelist will give a 7 minute presentation that will be followed by discussion between panelists and/or with the professor. Panelists may utilize visual materials, illustrations, and primary research such as newspapers to aid their presentations;
- Paper: The paper will be 6-10 pages in length. Papers that receive high grades are expected to be historically accurate, clearly written, and reflective of critical thinking from an intersectional perspective.

Late Assignment Policy & Attendance and Participation

Extensions will be granted only in case of emergency. Late submissions without extensions will be penalized ½ letter grade per day (B+ to B, e.g.). The quality of your class experience (and your grade) depends upon you being in class and actively contributing. As such, unexplained persistent absence/tardiness will result in your grade being penalized. If you are unable to attend I expect you to email me before the class explaining why so I may excuse your absence.

Students with Disabilities

Any students requiring accommodations should contact Rafael Hernandez to make proper arrangements. Please be prepared to share your documentation from the NYU disabilities office regarding appropriate accommodations.
Statement of Academic Integrity
Members of the NYU Wagner community, are all expected to adhere to high intellectual standards.
http://www.nyu.edu/cas/map/integrity.pdf. This is a good resource for issues of academic honesty.
All exams and writing assignments must be the sole work of the individual student. Violations of these
standards will automatically result in all participating students failing the course and being remanded to the
discipline committee for further action.

Readings 1.27.2011
Giddings, Paula. J., “When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race & Sex in America”,
Chapters I. “To Sell My Life as Dearly as Possible” pp. 16-31; Higginbotham Jr., A. Leon. “In a Matter of
Color: Race and the American Legal Process The Colonial Period”, Chapter 4. “New York: From Half-
Freedom to Slavery”, pp. 100-150; Chapter 11. “The Declaration of Independence: A Self-Evident Truth or a
Chapters 2. “When We Were One” pp. 25-50; Dill, Bonnie Thornton, Zambrana, Ruth Enid, &
Collins, Patricia Hill. “Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy, and Practice”
Anthology of Essays on a New Interpretive Tool Intersectionality - How Race, Class, Gender,
Ethnicity, & Dimensions of Difference Shape Society, Forward: “Emerging Intersections-Building Knowledge
and Transforming Institutions”, by Patricia Hill Collins, pp. vii-xiv; Kloppenberg, James T., “Reading
ix-xvii.

Overview Themes

I. Equity: Race & Gender Politics

February 3rd “Negotiating Race & Gender”

We will examine the roots of racism, sexism, and classism within the context of how groups gained, maintained
and excluded others from political power. Subjects will include historical attitudes toward race, gender, ethnicity
and class; and how those attitudes were reflected in the United States Constitution. Movements that sought to
gain or regain parity will be examined like the debate regarding slavery, women’s and racial movements,
immigration and labor movements as well as contemporary notions of equality, diversity, and colorblindness.

Readings

Giddings, Paula. J., “When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race & Sex in America”, &
Chapter II. “Casting of the Die: Morality, Slavery and Resistance”pp. 33-55; Chapters III. & IV. “To
Choose Again, Freely” & “Prelude to a Movement”, pp. 57-94;

pp. 51-76;
February 10th  “American Touchstones: Shaping Rights & Economic Stability”

Throughout American History vital policy, legislation and Supreme Court decisions, driven by citizen movements have shaped the American domestic agenda. We will examine the citizen movements, politics, community organizing, activism and messages that drove the passage of amendments and decisions represent decades of progressive efforts to realize equity. We will trace this nation’s progress and efforts to address Race & Gender equity in America.

Readings


February 17th “Intersectionality” & New “Social Literacy”

Intersectionality, the consideration of race, class, and gender, as a tenet in understanding, policy planning is one of the important contemporary theoretical contributions made by scholars in the field of women’s studies. This transformative paradigm constitutes what is often called a new social literacy. We will examine how intersectional theory is used by critical race theorists, political scientists, and other scholars to address exclusions in public policy and the law. We will examine how intersectionality is used as an interpretive tool to address concepts of “difference”. This seminar will offer practical applications for using intersectional knowledge for policy, institutional change and social justice.
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Readings


February 24th “Identity Politics: Vocabulary, Code Words, Tone & Message”

This seminar examines identity politics the history and definition of the term; its use and criticism; interaction, marginalization, achievements and political impact in American cities: advocacy, mobilization and community organizing. Identity politics refers to political arguments and agenda focusing on the self interest and perspectives of social minorities, or self-identified special interest groups and the way in which people's politics are shaped by aspects of their identity through race, class, gender, religion, and sexual orientation or traditional dominance.

Readings


March 3rd  “Women: Elected, Appointed, Contested & Careerist”

This class will focus on how the complex-- and sometimes contentious--relationship between racial and feminist constituencies have affected political outcomes. How did this relationship impact on the presidential election? What is the status of women in general, and women of color in particular, as elected and appointed officials? What are the historical precedents and current discourses regarding the race vs. gender debate?

Readings [Special Guest: Writer-Historian, Paula J. Giddings(B)]


Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) “Women in Elective Office 2010”, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University (B).

Articles
“Feminist for Clinton”, Huffington Post, February 15th , 2008(B);

Walker, Alice. “Lest We Forget”, the Root , March 27th, 2008(B);

Hirshman, Linda, “Looking to the Future, Feminism has to Focus”, Washington Post, June 8, 2008(B);

“Questions for Nancy Pelosi, Minority Report Interview” by Deborah Solomon, The New York Times Magazine, Published: November 18, 2010 (B);


“New Battler for Black Women”, Ebony Magazine, By Pamela Noel, February 1984(B);

“Grassroots, Glass Ceilings: Women Carry Civil Rights Groups but Aren’t Allowed to Lead”, Op-Ed The Washington Post, By Ann O’Hanlon April 18, 1993(B);


II. Community Organizing: Leadership, Political Activism & Mobilizing Cities

March 10th “American Ideals, Leadership, Citizen Movements & Mobilizing Youth”

Developing effective synergies between community organizing and leadership development are vital to attaining social justice. Today's advocacy must also include multimedia, social media and social networks that are essential in the mobilization of the growing demographic, of young voters. Community organizing, mobilizing resources and designing adaptable strategies will be reviewed that met the need and addressed diversity, cultural and class issues. We will review and compare citizen movements, political campaigns/elections and methods utilized to address social justice.

Readings


"The Interstitial Politics of Black Feminist Organizations" by Kimberly Springer, Smith College, Meridians(B); Vol. 1, no. 2 p.155-191;


Fisher, Robert.“Let the People Decide: Neighborhood Organizing in America”, Twayne, (B); “Introduction”, pp. xi-xxiv; Chapter 4.“The Neighborhood Organizing Revolution of the 1960s”, pp.98-131;


Kromm, Chris, “Election 2008: The Generation Gap: Young white voters in the South”, Institute for Southern Studies, November 12th, 2008(B);


Articles


March 14-19 Spring Recess No classes scheduled

March 24th “Migrations, Immigrations & Political Impact of New Demographics”
This class will explore the demographic impact of migrations and immigrations on the urban landscape. In different periods, the movement of large numbers of Europeans, African Americans, Latinos, and those of Asian descent have changed the socioeconomic landscape of American cities, What prompted these movements? How have they affected political representation and public policy discourses? What are the current trends and how will those trends shape upcoming elections?

Readings


“Immigration” Commentary by Peter Coy, Bloomberg Business Week, May 3, 2010 (B); Passel, Jeffrey S. & Cohn, D’Vera. Pew Research Center, “A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States, April 14, 2009 (B);

Herman, Judy and Minnite, Lorraine, “The Demographics of Voters in America’s 2008 General Election: A Preliminary Assessment”, Research Memo, Project Vote, November 18th, 2008 (B);

Lopez, Mark Hugo, “The Hispanic Vote in 2008 Election”, Pew Hispanic Center, Nov. 7th, 2008 (B);

Articles
“More Immigration Losers: GOP Hardliners need to Face Reality”, Wall Street Journal, Review & Outlook. December 2, 2008 (B);

Devin Burghart, “Nativism and Election 2008”, Searchlight Magazine, December 2008 (B);

“Surge in Hispanic Vote”, November 2008 (B). Working Immigrants. Posted by Peter Rousmaniere, February 3, 2009 (B);

Cobble, Steve and Velasquez, Joe. “Obama’s Latino Mandate”, The Nation, November 22, 2008 (B);


March 31st “Election ’08 & America’s First African American President”

This course will examine the historic 2008 election of President Barack Obama and its urban policy implications. Topics to be studied through readings, discussions, and guest lectures, will include: political strategies of the campaign, including the challenge to the southern strategy; race, class, gender, generation, and the changing electorate; the immigrant rights agenda; the city and identity politics—gender, race, and the challenge of intersectional theory; post racialists, myth or reality?

Readings


“A More Perfect Union” (speech) Candidate for President, Barack Obama, March 18th 2008 (B);


Brafman, Ori. and Beckstrom, Rod A., The Starfish and the Spider: The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations, Portfolio Trade(B); “Introduction”, pp 1-5.

Articles
Williams, Juan. “What Obama’s Victory Means for Racial Politics”, Wall Street Journal, November 10th, 2008 (B);


Obama’s Mercenary Position, Jeremy Seahill, The Nation, February 27, 2008(B);

April 7th “Tea Party Movement”

The Tea Party Movement is one of the fastest-growing and most influential political phenomena in recent memory: United by a strong belief in limited government and individual liberty, Tea Party members are organizing to change the American political landscape. This social conservative fourth wave “tea partiers” may demonstrate, an absence of traditional leadership structure may be an asset. While embracing radical decentralization and modeling methodology and organizing tools of the Obama ‘08 Campaign - Tea Party activists intend to rewrite the conservative rule book for political organizing. We will examine social movements from the late 19th Century to our current political history and conditions that foster populist, conservative movements and how their emergence impacts on the discourse of equality.

Readings


Articles
Swarts, Heidi. Organizing Urban America: Secular and Faith Based Progressive Movements (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008(B);

“How It's Time for the Tea Party: The populist movement is more a critique of the GOP than a wing of it.” by Peggy Noonan Wall Street Journal, September 17, 2010 (B);

“How Tea Party Organizes Without Leaders: Embracing radical decentralization, tea party activists intend to rewrite the rule book for political organizing.” by Jonathan Rauch, National Journal Magazine, Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010 (B);

“Tea Party Time: The Making of a Political Uprising,” by Michael Scherer, TIME Magazine with CNN, Thursday September 16th 2010 (B);

“Congress Now Has a Tea Party Caucus,” The New York Times, July 20, 2010 (B);

“Party Time: The tea partiers have shown they can have an impact if they work together. Will they?,” Newsweek, February 3rd, 2010 (B);

“How the Tea Party Could Get My,” Vote by David Swerdlick, the ROOT, posted July 16th, 2010 (B);

April 14th “Public-Private Partnerships & Strategic Alliances”
In 1968 the Kerner Report of the “National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders” was the catalyst for the launch of new relationships between the public and private sectors in support of Americas cities. Organizations like the National Urban Coalition movement of organized public private partnerships were created; and, formally signed into law as a tenet of public policy in 1982 with the precedent set by The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). We will examine the background, theory, and public-private partnerships, privatization and strategic alliances as vehicles and best practices which enable community and neighborhood development and revitalization.

Readings
Kouzes, James M. and Posner, Barry Z. The Leadership Challenge: How to Keep Getting Extraordinary Things Done in Organizations, Jossey-Bass(B); Chapter 5. “Envision the Future”, pp. 103-129;

Kerner Commission: 1968“Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders” (B);

Articles

April 21 “Managing Message & Communication 2.0”

Smarter faster, informed constituents and the power of information are elements of communication 2.0. The agenda, managing the message and managing expectations are increasingly dependent on web-based technologies social media and social networking. The transformative nature of social networks and media, high tech, coupled with traditional multi-media, has dramatically changed the political organizing dynamic. We will examine key characteristics of web-based activism and their impacts on organizing and participation.

Readings

King, Martin Luther, Jr. ’I Have a Dream’ speech(B);


Obama, President Barack, ”A More Perfect Union” March 18, 2008, speech on race(B);


April 28th “Education Excellence & Knowledge Based Economy”

Quality public education, a civil society, equity, access, economic stability and enhancement of social environments are key objectives in community & human resource development. In the context of economic and educational competitiveness - America’s global academic standing and position as compared with the top 35 industrialized countries world-wide; we will review the competitive issues that have led to the current focus on rigorous math science curriculum for kindergarten thru 12th grade in the American urban public education systems.
Readings


Kouzes, James M. and Posner, Barry Z. “The Leadership Challenge: How to Keep Getting Extraordinary Things Done in Organizations”: Chapter 8. “Experiment and Take Risks”, pp.188-220 (B);

Articles
The Atlantic Magazine, “The Rise of the New Global Elite” By Chrystia Freeland, Jan./Feb.2011(B);