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

Recommended:
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.
Chris McNickle, To Be Mayor of New York: Ethnic Politics in the City, Columbia University Press, 1993
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
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
1.4 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)
1.9 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 
2.3 NYC Department of City Planning, 
2.4 Pete Hamill, Downtown: My Manhattan, pp1.-180
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 
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 
(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 
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.

Resources:
- 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.
5.4 Robert Caro, The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York, pp. 615-806.

Week 6 | October 24
Mayors Cope with Crises: Koch, Dinkins and Giuliani

Required:

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:

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

Week 8 | November 7
The Politics of Public Safety
Required:
8.1 www.nytimes.com/homicides

Week 9 | November 14
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"
9.6 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

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

Week 11 | December 5
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 | 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.
12.6 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...