New York University
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Course Outline Spring 2012
UPADM-GP 219(001) “Race, Class & Gender in American Cities”

Professor: Jewell Jackson McCabe Email: jewell.jacksonmccabe@nyu.edu
Class Meeting Times: Friday. 12noon -2:45p
Class Location: 194 Mercer Street Rm 201
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Office Location: The Puck Building. 295 Lafayette St.
Office Telephone: 212.998.7477
Office Hours: By appointment. 3:30p-5:30p

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 American 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


Additional Course Reading

New York University
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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 Nation Magazine, 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 and Punctuality are essential: if you must be absent, contact Rafael Hernandez in advance.
Grading is as follows:
- Class Participation: 10%
- Writing & Oral Presentation assignments: 30%
- 48-hour Take-Home Midterm Exam: 30%
- 48-hour Cumulative Take-Home Final Exam: 30%

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.). Students with Disabilities should contact Rafael Hernandez to make proper arrangements. 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.

Overview Themes

I. “Race, Class & Gender in American Cities” Introduction

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.

II. Equity: Race & Gender Politics

February 3rd “Negotiating Race & Gender”
Readings
Giddings, Paula J., “When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race & Sex in America”.
Dill, Bonnie Thornton, Zambrana, Ruth Enid, & Collins, Patricia Hill. “Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy, and Practice”.
Traister, Rebecca, “Big Girls Don’t Cry: The Election that Changed Everything for American Women”.
Harris-Perry, Melissa V. “Sister Citizen: Shame Stereotypes and Black Women in America”.

February 10th “American Touchstones: Shaping Rights & Economic Stability”
Readings
Giddings, Paula. J. “When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race & Sex in America”.
Dill, Bonnie, Thornton, Zambrana, Ruth Enid, & Collins, Patricia Hill. “Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy, and Practice”.
Kloppenberg, James T., “Reading Obama: Dreams, Hope, and the American Political Tradition”.

February 17th “Intersectionality” & New “Social Literacy”
Readings
Dill, Bonnie Thornton, Zambrana, Ruth Enid, & Collins, Patricia Hill, “Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy, and Practice”.

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February 24th First Oral/Panel Presentation (Paper Due March 2nd)
Theme: “Identity Politics: Vocabulary, Code Words, Tone & Message”

February 24th “Identity Politics: Vocabulary, Code Words, Tone & Message”
 Readings
Dill, Bonnie Thornton, Zambrana, Ruth Enid, & Collins, Patricia Hill, Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy, and Practice.
Schildkraut, Deborah J. “Americanism in the Twenty-First Century: Public Opinion in the Age of Immigration”.

March 2nd “Women: Elected, Appointed, Contested & Careerist”
Featured Guest Speaker: Paula J. Giddings, Author, “When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race & Sex in America” & Recipient Los Angeles Times Book Prize in History for, “Ida, A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching”. She is also the Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor in African-American Studies at Smith College.

Readings
Traister, Rebecca. “Big Girls Don’t Cry: The Election that Changed Everything for American Women”. Harris-Perry, Melissa V. “Sister Citizen: Shame Stereotypes and Black Women in America”.
“All Fired Up: Women, Feminism, and Misogyny in the Democratic Primaries”; by Christine Stansell, published by, Dissent Magazine, Fall 2008 (B).

Take Home 48 hour Mid-term Exam Distributed March 2nd due March 5th

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

March 9th “American Ideals, Leadership, Citizen Movements & Mobilizing Youth”
Readings
Schildkraut, Deborah J. “Americanism in the Twenty-First Century: Public Opinion in the Age of Immigration”.

March 12-16 Spring Recess No classes scheduled
March 23rd  “Migrations, Immigrations & Political Impact of New Demographics”

Readings
Schildkraut, Deborah J. “Americanism in the Twenty-First Century: Public Opinion in the Age of Immigration”.

March 30th  Second Oral/Panel Presentation (Paper Due April 6th)
Theme: “Election ’08 & America’s First African American President”

March 30th  “Election ’08 & America’s First African American President”

Readings
Heileman, John & Halperin, Mark. “Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime”.

April 6th  “Tea Party Movement”

Readings
Brafman, Ori. and Beckstrom, Rod A., “The Starfish and the Spider: The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations”.
“Why It’s Time for the Tea Party: The populist movement is more a critique of the GOP than a wing of it” by “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).

April 13th  “Public-Private Partnerships & Strategic Alliances”

Readings

April 20th  Third Oral/Panel Presentation (Paper Due April 27th)
Theme: “Managing Message & Communication 2.0”

April 20th  “Managing Message & Communication 2.0”

Readings
Earl, Jennifer and Kimport, Katrina. “Digitally Enabled Social Change: Activism in the Internet Age “.

April 27th  “Education Excellence & Knowledge Based Economy”

Readings
Hirsh, Jr., E.D. “The Schools We Need: And Why We Don’t Have Them”.

May 4th  “48 Hour Cumulative Take Home Final Exam”