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

- Traister, Rebecca. “Big Girls Don’t Cry: The Election that Changed Everything for American Women” Tantor Media (September 22, 2010).
- Harris-Perry, Melissa V. “Sister Citizen: Shame Stereotypes and Black Women in America” Yale University Press (September 20, 2011).
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;
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- 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.

Readings Update 2013

February 1st “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.

Part I & II ~ The Abolitionist ~ DVD

I. Equity: Race & Gender Politics

February 8th “Negotiating Race & Gender”

Part I ~ RACE: The Power of an Illusion ~ DVD

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


February 15th “American Touchstones: Shaping Rights & Economic Stability”

Part II ~ RACE: The Power of an Illusion ~ DVD

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 nations progress and efforts to address Race & Gender equity in America.
Readings


February 22nd  “Intersectionality” & New “Social Literacy”

**Part III ~ RACE: The Power of an Illusion ~ DVD**

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.

Readings


March 1st  **First Oral/Panel Presentation** (Paper Due March 8th)

Theme: “Identity Politics: Vocabulary, Code Words, Tone & Message”

March 1st  “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.

Race 2012 ~ **A Conversation about Race & Politics ~ PBS.org**

Readings


Optional Reading
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March 8th “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.

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

Optional Reading
- Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) “Women in Elective Office 2010”, (B).

Take Home 48 hour Mid-term Exam Distributed March 8th due March 11th

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

March 15th “American Ideals, Leadership, Citizen Movements & Mobilizing Youth”

Part I & II ~ One Woman, One Vote ~ DVD

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
March 29th  “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

- Sotomayor, Sonia., “My Beloved World” Justice Sotomayor's autobiography Knopf (January 15, 2013);
- “Surge in Hispanic Vote”, November 2008 (B). Working Immigrants. Posted by Peter Rousmaniere, February 3, 2009 (B);

April 5th  “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


April 12th  “Second Oral/Panel Presentation (Paper due April 19th)
Theme: “Election '08 & America's First African American President”

April 12th  “Election '08 & '12 America's First African American President, First Female[serious] Candidate &
First Latina on the Supreme Court”

Featured Guest Speaker: Ronnie Eldridge is an American activist, businesswoman, politician, and television host. **Ronnie Eldridge** is the current host of **Eldridge & Co.**, a weekly television talk show on **CUNY TV**, the television station of the City University of New York. A protégée of **Robert F. Kennedy**, Eldridge went on to serve **New York City's Mayor John V. Lindsay** as Special Assistant, and was the only female cabinet member of **New York Governor Mario Cuomo** serving as **Director of the Division for Women**. Later she established the **Office of Government & Community Affair** for one of the **PBS Flagship** Stations **WNED-Channel 13**.

This course will examine the historic 2008 election of President Barack Obama ran and was elected the First African American President & when the First Women serious Candidates, Senator Hillary Clinton [for President] and Governor Sarah Palin, Candidate [first] for Republican Vice President and the 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**

- Issenberg, Sasha., “A Vast Left-Wing Competency: How Democrats became the party of effective campaigning—and why the GOP isn’t catching up anytime soon”. Article Posted by Slate, Nov. 7, 2012.

April 19th  “Public-Private Partnerships & Strategic Alliances”

Featured Guest Speaker: Irving A. Williamson

**Irving A. Williams** has been Vice-Chairman of the U.S. **International Trade Commission (ITC)** since October, 2010; he has been a Commissioner since February, 2007. Prior to his ITC appointment, he was **President** of **Williamson International Trade Strategies, Inc., a New York City**-based consulting firm for seven years, where he worked on over 20 U.S. **Agency for International Development (USAID)** and other donor-funded trade capacity building projects.

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

April 26th Third Oral/Panel Presentation (Paper Due May 3rd)
Theme: “Managing Message”

April 26th “Managing Message”

Featured Guest Speaker: [Former WNBC Anchor] Carol Jenkins
An Emmy-winning former television journalist WNBC, she was founding president and board member of The Women’s Media Center, the groundbreaking non-profit aimed at increasing coverage and participation of women in the media. In that WMC role she conceived the acclaimed Progressive Women’s Voices media leadership program, and acquired and expanded the largest portfolio of women experts in the country, SheSource.

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

Readings

May 3rd “Communication 2.0 & Obama 2012”

Inside Obama’s Presidency ~ Frontline/PBS.org

We will examine key characteristics of web-based activism and their impacts on organizing and participation. Does the global reach and speed of broadband on the Internet affect the essential character or dynamics of online political activity? The Web offers two key affordances relevant to activism: 1) sharply reduced costs for creating, organizing, and participating in protest; and 2) the decreased need for activists to be physically present together in order to act together. A rally can be organized and demonstrators recruited entirely online, without the cost of printing and mailing; an activist can create an online petition in minutes and gather e-signatures from coast to coast using only a laptop. We will discuss and revisit long-standing theoretical assumptions about managing social movements.

Readings

May 10th “Education Excellence & Knowledge Based Economy”
Quality public education, civil society, equity, access, economic stability & enhancement of social environments are key objectives in urban planning, renewal, community & human resource development. In the context of America’s global academic standing and position compared with top 30 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 system.

Readings


Optional Reading


May 10th  “48 Hour Cumulative Take Home Final Exam” (Due May 13th 12Noon)