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

- Dill, Bonnie Thornton, Zambrana, Ruth Enid, & Collins, Patricia Hill. “Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy, and Practice” (2009);

Additional Course Reading

- Sotomayor, Sonia., “My Beloved World” Justice Sotomayor’s autobiography Knopf (January 15, 2013)(C);
- Giddings, Paula. J., “IDA: A Sword Among Lions” (Campaign Against Lynching), HarperCollins Publishers 1st edition (March 11, 2008)(C);
- Traister, Rebecca. “Big Girls Don’t Cry: The Election that Changed Everything for American Women” Tantor Media (September 22, 2010)(C);
- Harris-Perry, Melissa V. “Sister Citizen: Shame Stereotypes and Black Women in America” Yale University Press (September 20, 2011)(C);


Reich, Robert., “The Year of the Great Redistribution”, Huff Post Politics, The Blog, January 5th, 2014(C);

Ratner, Steven., “America in 2013, as Told in Charts”; The New York Times, Opinion Pages, December 30th, 2013(C);

Moore, Michael., “The Obamacare We Deserve”; The New York Times, Opinion Pages, December 31st, 2013(C);

Goldstein, Dana., “Will New York City Lead the Way on Pre-K?”; The Nation, January 26th, 2014(C);


Earl, Jennifer & Kimport, Katrina., “Digitally Enabled Social Change: Activism in the Internet Age” The MIT Press; 1 edition (March 4, 2011)(C);


Schildkraut, Deborah J. “Americanism in the Twenty-First Century: Public Opinion in the Age of Immigration” Cambridge University Press; 1 edition (November 15, 2010) (C);

Academic ‘Dream Team’ Helped Obama’s Effort The New York Times By Benedict Carey Published: November 12, 2012(C);

A Vast Left-Wing Competency: How Democrats became the party of effective campaigning and why the GOP isn’t catching up anytime soon, SLATE by Sasha Issenberg, November 7, 2012(C).

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 Craig Schott 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. Panels 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 Craig Schott 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 2014

January 31st “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.

Screening ~ 1964: American Experience ~ WNET PBS

I. Equity: Race & Gender Politics

February 7th “Negotiating Race & Gender”

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.

Part I & II ~ The Abolitionist ~ 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 14th “American Touchstones: Shaping Rights & Economic Stability”

Part III ~ The Abolitionist ~ 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. Fifty years after President Lyndon B. Johnson's declaration, much has changed, but much remains the same. Or does it? Anti-poverty programs have increasingly reduced the number of poor Americans, but such efforts have been hampered by an economy that has frustrated advancement from the lower rungs, an economist writes.

Readings

- Hayes, Christopher., “ Twilight of The Elites: America After Meritocracy”, Chapter Two. “Meritocracy and Its Discontents” pp. 31-64(C);
- Ratner, Steven., “America in 2013, as Told in Charts”, The New York Times, December 30th 2013(C);
- American Civil War (C);
- Women’s Rights/Background (C);

February 21st “Intersectionality” & New “Social Literacy”

Part I & II ~ 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


February 28th First Oral/Panel Presentation (Paper Due March 7th)

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

February 28th “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

- Harris-Perry, Melissa V. “Sister Citizen: Shame Stereotypes and Black Women in America”, Chapter 7. “Michelle”, pp. 269-300(C);
- Sotomayor, Sonia., “My Beloved World”/Justice Sotomayor's autobiography, Chapter One. pp. 11-15(C), Chapter Two. pp. 16-26(C), Chapter Nine. pp. 76-81(C);
- Lantz, Frank I., “Words That Work: It's Not What You Say, It's What People Hear” (C);

Optional Reading


March 7th “Women: Elected, Appointed, Contested & Careerist”

Featured Guest Speaker: Liz J. Abzug - Feminist, Educator, Lawyer, Advocate for the LBGT community, is Professor of Urban Studies; and, Kenneth Cole Community Engagement Program Barnard College/Columbia University. Liz is a political consultant, Heading Liz J. Abzug Consultants Services. Her Mother, was Political Icon, Bella Abzug, nicknamed "Battling Bella", a lawyer, U.S. Representative, social activist and a leader of the Women’s Movement. Bella, joining feminists such as Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan founded the National Women’s Political Caucus. She declared, "This woman’s place is in the House—the House of Representatives," in her successful 1970 campaign. She was later appointed to chair the National Commission on the Observance of International Women’s Year and to plan the 1977 National Women’s Conference by President Gerald Ford and led President Jimmy Carter’s commission on women. Liz J. Abzug is committed to honoring her mother’s legacy. In 2004, Liz
Abzug, founded the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute (BALI) to mentor and train high school and college women to become effective leaders in civic, political, corporate and community life.

**Part I ~ One Woman, One Vote ~ DVD**

This class will focus on how the complex-- and sometimes contentious--relationship between racial and feminist constituencies has 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**

- Giddings, Paula. J., “IDA: A Sword Among Lions” [Campaign Against Lynching], Chapter Twenty Six. pp. 634-659(C);

**Optional Reading**


*Take Home 48 hour Mid-term Exam Distributed March 7th due March 10th*

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

March 14th “American Ideals, Leadership, Citizen Movements & Mobilizing Youth”

*Screening ~ 12 Years A Slave ~ 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**

- Hayes, Christopher., “ Twilight of The Elites: America After Meritocracy”, Chapter 1. “The Naked Emperors”, pp.1-29 (C);
- Sotomayor, Sonia.,“My Beloved World” Justice Sotomayor's autobiography, Chapter Seventeen. pp. 143-160(C); Chapter Eighteen. pp. 161-168(C);
March 17th-23rd Spring Recess No classes scheduled

March 28th  “Migrations, Immigrations & Political Impact of New Demographics”

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

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 Chapter Seven. pp. 51-64(C);
- Preston, Julia., “Showing Grass-Roots Support for Immigration Overhaul”, The New York Times, May 1st, 2013(C);
- Preston, Julia., “Women’s Groups Rally for Immigration Reform”, The New York Times, September 12th, 2013(C);

April 4th  “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.

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

Readings

- “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 (C);

What Will Be the Lasting Effect of the Tea Party Movement? (C).

April 11th Second Oral/Panel Presentation (Paper due April 18th)  
Theme: “Election ’08 & America’s First African American President”  

This course will examine the historic 2008 election of President Barack Obama 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?

One Woman, One Vote ~ DVD

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(C);


April 18th 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.

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Featured Guest Speaker. **Stanley S. Litow** is IBM's Vice President of Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs and President of IBM's Foundation. Under his leadership, IBM has been widely regarded as the global leader in Corporate Citizenship, and praised for societal and environmental leadership, labor practices, and civic leadership. Under Mr. Litow, IBM has developed innovative voice recognition technology to help children and adults learn to read, a humanitarian virtual supercomputer to speed research on cancer and AIDS, and new digital imaging technology to improve water quality. Mr. Litow helped devise IBM's Corporate Service Corps, a corporate version of the Peace Corps, to train and deploy thousands of IBM's future leaders; the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH), a grade 9 through 14 schools initiative to engage companies, colleges, communities and schools to help strengthen America's economic competitiveness by connecting education to jobs; and IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge, which is helping 100 cities worldwide become more effective.

Featured Guest Speaker: **Irving A. Williamson** has been Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) since June, 2012. Chairman Williamson was nominated to the USITC by President George W. Bush on September 7, 2006; renominated on January 9, 2007; and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 1, 2007. He was sworn in as a member of the Commission on February 7, 2007, for a term expiring on June 16, 2014. President Barack Obama designated him Vice Chairman for the term ending June 16, 2012. President Obama designated him Chairman for the term ending June 16, 2014. 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. Irving A. Williamson, a Democrat of New York, is the Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

**Readings**

- Kerner Commission: 1968“Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders” (C);
- “New York City Launches Investment Fund for Tech Start-Ups” by Joseph De Avila, The Wall Street Journal, May 26th 2010(C);
- “The New York City Investment Fund: An Emerging Model For Corporate Engagement in Urban Development” by Kathryn Wylde, & Peter Plastrik, Brookings, Sunday, December 12, 2010 (C);
- President Obama’s 2013 State of the Union Address (C);

**April 25th Third Oral/Panel Presentation (Paper Due May 2nd)**

Theme: “Managing Message”

April 25th “Managing Message”

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.

**Featured Guest Speaker:** "Ken" Sunshine serves as the President of Sunshine, Sachs & Associates, a New York-based public relations and communications consulting firm catering to a broad-based clientele in the worlds of politics, business, labor, healthcare entertainment. Previously, Mr. Sunshine served as the Chief of Staff to Mayor David N. Dinkins of the City of New York and as a Political Consultant to national and local campaigns. Mr. Sunshine has lectured widely on politics, media relations and public relations and has been a frequent guest on: Good Morning America, The Today Show, Nightline, Dateline NBC, CNN, 60 Minutes, Fox News Channel and MSNBC. He was recently named one of New York Magazine's "most influential people".

**Readings**

May 2nd  “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.

Featured Guest Speaker: Milly Hawk Daniel, is PolicyLink’s, Vice President for Communications, and leads the PolicyLink team responsible for strategically using media, online, editorial, and special events efforts to advance economic and social equity. A speechwriter, editor, and author, Daniel has directed communications activities in several nonprofit organizations and provided consulting services for many others. In its work with partner organizations across the country, PolicyLink helps identify media and web opportunities, plan advocacy efforts, draft opinion pieces and letters to the editor, and produce print materials for successful policy change. In her work at PolicyLink, Milly has led communications efforts related to affordable housing, transit oriented development, equitable rebuilding in New Orleans, and revitalizing older core cities. - See more at: www.policyleink.org

Readings


May 9th  “Education Excellence & Knowledge Based Economy”

Waiting for “Superman” ~ DVD

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

- Goldstein, Dana., ‘Will New York City Lead the Way on Pre-K? ’; The Nation, January 26th, 2014(C);

“48 Hours Cumulative Take Home Final Exam” (Due May 12th 12 Noon)

May 16th  “The Financial Crises, Power Elites, Inequality & The War on Poverty Revisited”

We will examine key characteristics of the cause and effect of the 2007-2008 global financial crises and its impact on America’s deepening inequality.

Readings