This course is designed to survey the politics of the United States’ central cities. A central theme of the course is that city politics is interwoven with racial politics and social class. The story of American cities that were first occupied by immigrants has not changed. Our cities continue to be the first stop and eventual home for many new immigrants. We want to take a deep dive and examine how race and social class has molded and shaped our cities and city politics.

The first section of the course examines the concept of race. The second section of the course focuses on the variety of public policy issues that large metropolitan areas grapple with and analytical concepts that have evolved to explain the politics of America’s major cities. The final section inquires into the nature of the urban condition with particular emphasis on political institutions, racial groups and social class.

**REQUIRED BOOKS & READINGS:** All course readings are available on Classes

**ASSESSED VALUATION:**
- Participation: 10%
- Midterm: 25%
- Media Bias Paper: 20%
- Policy Memo: 15%
- Media Bias Presentation: 10%
- Final: 20%

**Late assignments are not accepted.** This is not to penalize any one but to create a fair and equal policy for all students. Any extra time that one student is given over another creates an unfair disadvantage.

**Accommodations:** Any students requiring accommodations should contact me to make proper arrangements. Please be prepared to share your documentation from the NYU disabilities office regarding appropriate accommodations.

**Academic Honesty:** This course follows NYU’s policy on plagiarism. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter with serious consequences. In short, don’t cheat.

**Any student behavior deemed inappropriate by the professor may impact your final grade.*
Part I: Measuring Race

January 28  Welcome!  
Readings: Review syllabus and discuss whether race is a social construction

February 4  Where are we with race today?  

February 11  Institutional View of Race – The U.S. Census  
Rodriguez (2000) excerpts from Changing Race: Latinos, the Census and the history of ethnicity in the United States

Part II: Race and Public Policy

February 18  The Politics of Public Housing: NYC and Chicago – A Tale of Two Different Cities  
**POLICY MEMO DUE IN CLASS**

Readings: Hunt (2009) excerpts from Blueprint for Disaster  
Bloom (2009) excerpts from Public Housing that Worked

February 25  Urban Crime Policy: NYC “stop and frisk” policy and the broader implications  
Weaver and Lerman (2010) “Political Consequences of the Carceral State” from American Political Science Review  
Watch “the Interrupters” on pbs.org

March 4  Welfare Policy  
Readings: Gilens (2009) excerpts from Why Americans Hate Welfare: Race, Media, and the Politics of Antipoverty Policy

March 11  MIDTERM – IN CLASS
March 18  
**SPRING BREAK**

March 25  
**Education Policy**

Readings:
- (2010) “Public Schools, Public Housing: The Education of Children Living in Public Housing” from *Urban Affairs*
- Watch “Waiting for Superman”

April 1  
**Urban Poverty/Gentrification**

Readings:
- Ellen, Mijanovich, Dillman (2001) “Neighborhood Effects on Health: Exploring the Links and Assessing the Evidence” from *Journal of Urban Affairs*

**Part III  
Political Institutions**

April 8  
**Media and Race and Gender**

Readings:
- Hurwitz and Peffley “Impact of Racialized Code Words on Support for Punititive Crime Policy”
- Terkildsen and Damore (1999) “The Dynamics of Racialized Media Coverage in Congressional Elections” from *Journal of Politics*

April 15  
**Building Coalitions**  
**MEDIA BIAS PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

Readings:
- Kaufmann (2003) “Cracks in the Rainbow: Group Commonality as a Basis for Latino and African-American Political Coalitions” from *Political Research Quarterly*
- Kim and Lee (2001) “Interracial Politics: Asian Americans and Other Communities of Color” from *PS: Political Science and Politics*
- Watch “Times of Harvey Milk”
- **Begin group presentations**

April 22  
**Voting Behavior by Racial Group**

Readings:
- “Political Knowledge and Use of Candidate Race as a Voting Cue” from *American Politics Research*
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Are we post-racial? Barack Obama and the politics of race</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>Final day of class</td>
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Final Examination - Tuesday, May 20 at 8:00 pm