



NYU

**ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

UPADM-GP 215.001 The Politics of New York Spring 2022

Instructor Information

- Professor Mitchell L. Moss
 - Email: moss.mitchell@gmail.com
 - Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2–4 p.m., or by appointment
- Teaching Assistant: Rachel Wise
 - Email: rwise@nyu.edu
 - Office Hours: By appointment

Course Information

- Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
- Class Location: TBA

Course Description

New York City is the nation's largest city, with 8.6 million people and a municipal budget of more than \$100 billion. This course will describe and analyze the government of New York City, the demographic and economic forces that influence its political life, and the respective roles of the mayor, city council, and key elected officials. The course will explore public policies for criminal justice, economic development, education, climate change, transportation, planning and preservation, and housing. The class will also focus on demographic trends affecting voting and elections, and the ways in which disasters have shaped the city over the past two centuries.

The course readings are accessible online and students will be expected to do the required readings prior to the assigned class session. The course requirements will include a midterm exam, final exam, and a policy memo that focuses on a current public policy or project in New York City.

Course and Learning Objectives:

1. analyze the economic, political, technological and demographic forces that influence New York City's growth and development;
2. identify the key actors, organizations, and political processes that influence planning and policy making;
3. understand how the media can drive city policies;

4. think critically about specific public policy debates (e.g., race relations, criminal justice, mass transit) and generate your own evaluations of proposed policies; and
5. demonstrate command of lecture concepts through well-documented writing reinforced by data, maps, and other visuals, and through contributions to class discussions.

Learning Assessment Table

Graded Assignment	Course Objective Covered
Midterm Exam	#1, 2, 3, and 4
Policy Memo	#1, 2, 4, and 5
Final Exam	#1, 2, 3, and 4

Required Readings

Students will be expected to have read the required readings assigned for a given week prior to lecture. While all other required readings will be accessible online via Brightspace, students must rent or purchase the following text at the NYU Bookstore or elsewhere:

- Caro, R. (1974). *The power broker: Robert Moses and the fall of New York*. Vintage.

Immediately below each week’s required reading list is a set of suggested readings that I encourage you to read, but doing so is optional. In order to keep readings relevant to current events, readings will be updated a week prior to each class. Readings can be found in the Lessons tab on Brightspace for that corresponding week.

Web Resources

The following are news publications, magazines, journals, blogs, and other providers of content focused on New York City and/or New York State politics, policy (budget, education, economic, housing, and transportation, to name a few), or (history of) capital planning.

News Sources

- [amNY: amny.com](http://amny.com)
- [Bklyner.: bklyner.com](http://bklyner.com)
- [Chalkbeat | New York: chalkbeat.org/ny](http://chalkbeat.org/ny)
- [THE CITY: city.nyc](http://city.nyc)
- [City & State New York: cityandstateny.com](http://cityandstateny.com)
- [City Journal: city-journal.org](http://city-journal.org)
- [City Lab | New York: citylab.com/locations/cities/new-york/](http://citylab.com/locations/cities/new-york/)
- [City Limits: citylimits.org](http://citylimits.org)
- [Crain’s Business New York: crainsnewyork.com](http://crainsnewyork.com)
- [Curbed New York: ny.curbed.com](http://ny.curbed.com)
- [Daily Intelligencer, New York Magazine: nymag.com/daily/intelligencer](http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer)
- [Daily Politics \(NY Daily News blog\): nydailynews.com/news/politics/](http://nydailynews.com/news/politics/)
- [Gotham Gazette: gothamgazette.com](http://gothamgazette.com)
- [Gothamist: gothamist.com](http://gothamist.com)
- [New York Post: nypost.com](http://nypost.com)
- [The New York Times | N.Y.: nytimes.com/section/nyregion](http://nytimes.com/section/nyregion)

- [Next City](http://nextcity.org): nextcity.org
- [Observer | Politics](http://observer.com/politics): observer.com/politics
- [Politico | New York](http://politico.com/states/new-york): politico.com/states/new-york
- [Streetsblog | NYC](http://nyc.streetsblog.org): nyc.streetsblog.org
- [Times Union | Capitol Confidential](http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol): blog.timesunion.com/capitol
- [The Village Voice](http://villagevoice.com): villagevoice.com
- [Wall Street Journal](http://wsj.com): wsj.com

Academic Resources

- [Center for an Urban Future](http://nycfuture.org): nycfuture.org
- [Center for New York City Affairs at The New School](http://centernyc.org): centernyc.org
- [Citizens Budget Commission](http://cbcny.org): cbcny.org
- [Empire Center for Public Policy](http://empirecenter.org): empirecenter.org
- [Fiscal Policy Institute](http://fiscalspolicy.org): fiscalspolicy.org
- [Manhattan Institute for Policy Research](http://manhattan-institute.org): manhattan-institute.org
- [Museum of the City of New York | The Greatest Grid](http://thegreatestgrid.mcnyc.org): thegreatestgrid.mcnyc.org
- [NYU Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy](http://furmancenter.org): furmancenter.org
- [NYU Rudin Center for Transportation Policy & Management](http://wagner.nyu.edu/rudincenter): wagner.nyu.edu/rudincenter

Government Agencies

- [Department of City Planning](http://nyc.gov/planning): nyc.gov/planning
- [Independent Budget Office of the City of New York](http://ibo.nyc.ny.us): ibo.nyc.ny.us
- [Mayor's Office of Management and Budget](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/omb/index.page): www1.nyc.gov/site/omb/index.page
- [NYC OpenData](http://opendata.cityofnewyork.us): opendata.cityofnewyork.us
- [Office of the New York State Comptroller](http://osc.state.ny.us): osc.state.ny.us

Podcasts

- [10 Blocks, City Journal](#)
- [The Bowery Boys: New York City History](#)
- [Break in the Case, New York](#)
- [The Brian Lehrer Show, WNYC](#)
- [Brooklyn Deep Third Rail](#)
- [Brooklyn, USA](#)
- [The City Concealed | THIRTEEN](#)
- [FAQ NYC](#)
- [Flatbush + Main: A Podcast from the Brooklyn Historical Society](#)
- [Firewall](#)
- [Max & Murphy, City Limits and Gotham Gazette](#)
- [New York NOW, WMHT](#)
- [NYCEDC Economic Snapshot](#)
- [Public Affairs and Government, CUNY - Baruch College](#)
- [Secrets of NYC, NYC Media](#)
- [What's the \[DATA\] Point? Citizens Budget Commission and Gotham Gazette](#)

Brightspace

Students will use Brightspace in this course to

- view the most updated version of the course syllabus,
- read course announcements,
- access presentation slides used in previous weeks' lectures,

- retrieve any assigned and suggested readings (Lessons tab), and
- submit assignments.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. All students enrolled in this class are required to read and abide by [Wagner's Academic Code](#). All Wagner students have already read and signed the [Wagner Academic Oath](#). Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated and students in this class are expected to report violations to me. If any student in this class is unsure about what is expected of you and how to abide by the academic code, you should consult with me.

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at NYU

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the [Moses Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\) website](#) and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or email CSD (at 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

[NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#) states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Please notify me in advance of religious holidays that might coincide with exams to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives.

Assignments and Grading

Assignments must be submitted as a Word Document to Brightspace by the due date and time denoted on the syllabus. It is your responsibility to check that the uploaded assignment is in the correct file format and accessible, or the assignment will be penalized for lateness. All submitted assignments will be run through Brightspace's built-in TurnItIn application. Your final grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

Class Participation (10%)

During many classes, there will be allocated time for students to discuss themes of the lecture topic. Potential discussion questions will be posted each week with the readings so that students have time to reflect and prepare that week's topic.

Midterm Exam (30%)

The midterm exam will be a take-home assignment in which you will compose short answer responses to a set of prompts relating to the course topics covered during the first half of the semester. Formulate your answers using all relevant course materials, write with brevity and purpose, and be sure to properly cite all your sources. I will post more detailed instructions in regard to content, format, and submission for each of the written assignments you will complete for this course on Brightspace further into the semester.

Policy Memo (30%)

Detailed assignment instructions will be posted on Brightspace later in the semester.

Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will follow the same format as the midterm exam. Detailed assignment instructions will be posted on Brightspace later in the semester.

Late Policy

Assignment deadline extensions will be granted in cases of emergencies. Assignments submitted late without extensions will be penalized.

Overview of the Semester

Week	Date	Lecture Topic and Deliverables
1	01/25/2022	Course Goals and Requirements
1	01/27/2022	How New York City Is Different from Other Cities
2	02/01/2022	Immigration and Demographic Change
2	02/03/2022	Who Has Power in New York City? Pt. I
3	02/08/2022	Who Has Power in New York City? Pt. II
3	02/10/2022	The Mayor's Role in New York City
4	02/15/2022	Racial and Ethnic Politics in New York City
4	02/17/2022	How NYC Raises and Spends Money Instructions for midterm exam and policy memo posted on NYU Brightspace.
5	02/22/2022	New York City Elections and Voting Behavior
5	02/24/2022	How Disasters Shape New York City, Pt. I
6	03/01/2022	How Disasters Shape New York City, Pt. II
6	03/03/2022	How Planning Has Guided New York City's Growth Submit midterm exam to NYU Brightspace by 11:00 a.m.
7	03/08/2022	Robert Moses and <i>The Power Broker</i>
7	03/10/2022	Economic Development Case Studies Submit policy memo topic proposal to NYU Brightspace by 11:00 a.m.
8	03/22/2022	Economic Trends and Income Inequality
8	03/24/2022	Housing, Communities, and Homelessness
9	03/29/2022	The Politics of Public Schools, Pt. I
9	03/31/2022	The Politics of Public Schools, Pt. II
10	04/05/2022	The Subway City
10	04/07/2022	Transportation Conflicts and New Modes of Mobility

		Submit policy memo to NYU Brightspace by 11:00 a.m.
11	04/12/2022	The Politics of Public Safety, Pt. I
11	04/14/2022	The Politics of Public Safety, Pt. II
12	04/19/2022	The Politics of Public Safety, Pt. III
12	04/21/2022	Public Health in New York City
13	04/26/2022	Climate Change and Resiliency in New York City
13	04/28/2022	TBA Instructions for final exam posted to NYU Brightspace.
14	05/03/2022	TBA
14	05/05/2022	TBA
—	05/12/2022	Submit final exam to NYU Brightspace by 11:00 a.m.