

**PSCI 598-306 Politics, Culture and American Cities**

**Fall 2005**

**Instructor: Adolph Reed, Jr.**

**T 6:00-9:00**

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**Hours: Tuesdays, 2-3 and by appointment**

This course brings together the vantage points of urban political economy and urban anthropology. Readings and discussions will engage with both literatures, folding in considerations of race, ethnicity and gender in American city life, with a focus on the relation between culture and political economy.

We will reconstruct the history of the different tracks of urban studies in the U.S., beginning with its roots in sociology and anthropology in the Chicago School and in political science in reform-oriented studies of public administration. We will revisit the community power debate of the 1950s-1970s, which shook out largely along disciplinary lines, and will examine the development of the urban political economy perspective in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as developments within U.S. urban anthropology since the 1960s. We will employ some local case study materials, and at every point we will try to understand the intellectual trajectories of the urbanist discourses in relation to dynamics contemporaneously shaping urban politics and policy.

Course requirements are seminar preparation – which includes each student's leading discussion around specified reading assignments -- and a research paper, the topic of which must be approved by week 5. There may also be an optional mid-term assignment, e.g., a book critique.

**The following books have been ordered at House of Our Own Bookstore, 3920 Spruce St. (215-222-1576):**

**John R. Logan & Harvey Molotch, Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place (University of California, 1987)**

**Sharon Zukin, The Culture of Cities (Blackwell, 1995)**

**Neil Smith, The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City (Routledge, 1996)**

**Setha Low, Behind the Gates: Life, Security, and the Pursuit of Happiness in Fortress America (Routledge, 2004)**

William Sites, Remaking New York: Primitive Globalization and the Politics of Urban Community (University of Minnesota, 2003)

Edward G. Goetz, Clearing the Way: Deconcentrating the Poor (Urban Institute, 2003)

Clarence Y. H. Lo, Small Property versus Big Government: Social Origins of the Property Tax Revolt (University of California, 1990)

Andrew E. G. Jonas and David Wilson, eds. The Urban Growth Machine: Critical Perspectives Two Decades Later (SUNY Press, 1999)

Stephen Samuel Smith, Education, Desegregation, and Development in Charlotte (SUNY Press, 2004)

Jefferson Cowie, Capital Moves: RCA's 70-Year Quest for Cheap Labor (Cornell University Press, 1999)

## ASSIGNMENTS

### **Week 1: Studying the City - Chicago School, Progressivism and their Heritage**

#### **Readings:**

Logan & Molotch, Urban Fortunes, chap 1;

Robert Park, E. Burgess and R. McKenzie, The City, chapters 1-3;

Wallace Sayre and Nelson Polsby, "American Political Science and the Study of Urbanization" in Philip Hauser & Leo Schnore, eds., The Study of Urbanization

Harlan Hahn and Charles Levine, "Introduction" to Readings in Urban Politics: Past, Present & Future (Hahn & Levine, eds);

Todd Swanstrom, The Crisis of Growth Politics: Cleveland, Kucinich and the Challenge of Urban Populism, chap 1;

Ulf Hannerz, Exploring the City: Inquiries Toward an Urban Anthropology, chapter 2.

### **Week 2: The Political Economy of Urban Space**

**Readings:**

Urban Fortunes, chapters 2 & 3;

Saskia Sassen, The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo, chap 9, (New York sections);

Dennis Judd and Todd Swanstrom, City Politics: Private Power and Public Policy, chapters 6 & 9;

Dennis Judd, "Symbolic Politics and Urban Policies: Why African Americans Got So Little from the Democrats" in in Without Justice for All: The New Liberalism and Our Retreat from Racial Equality, Adolph Reed, Jr., ed.

David Gordon, "Capitalist Development and the History of American Cities" in William Tabb and Larry Sawers, eds. Marxism and the Metropolis;

Susan Hanson and Geraldine Pratt, Gender, Work and Space, chapters 1, 4 and 6

**Week 3: Governmental Forms, Structures and Power****Readings:**

Urban Fortunes, chapter 5;

Judd & Swanstrom, City Politics, chapters 8 & 10-12;

Paul Peterson, City Limits, chapters 1-3;

Clarence N. Stone and Heywood T. Sanders, "Reexamining a Classic Case of Development Politics: New Haven, Connecticut" in The Politics of Urban Development, Clarence N. Stone and Heywood T. Sanders, eds.

Clarence N. Stone, "Social Stratification, Nondecision-making, and the Study of Community Power" American Politics Quarterly 10 (1982): 275-302;

Michael Lipsky, Street-Level Bureaucracy, chaps 1&2;

Reed, Stirrings in the Jug, chapter 5

**Week 4: Culture, Ideology and Urban Political Economy****Readings:**

Sharon Zukin, The Culture of Cities, chapters 1,2, 4-6

Dennis Judd and Susan Fainstein, "Cities as Places to Play" in Judd & Fainstein, eds., The Tourist City;

**Week 5: City as Theme Park – the Victory of the Suburban Enclave**

**Readings:**

Michael Sorkin, ed., Variations on a Theme Park, essays by Crawford, Winner, Soja, Boddy and Davis

**Week 6: The Gated Community – A Case**

**Readings:**

Setha Low, Behind the Gates: Life, Security, and the Pursuit of Happiness in Fortress America

Dennis R. Judd, "Enclosure, Community, and Public Life" in Dan A. Cheki, ed, New Communities in a Changing World, (Research In Community Sociology 6 (1996)

**Week 7: The Insular Suburb, Tax Revolt and the Roots of the New Right**

**Reading:**

Clarence Y. H. Lo, Small Property versus Big Government: Social Origins of the Property Tax Revolt

Lisa McGirr, Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right, chapter 1

**Week 8: Ethnic Politics and Minority Empowerment**

Micaela di Leonardo, "'Why Can't They Be Like Our Grandparents?' And Other Racial Fairy Tales" in Without Justice for All;

Reed, Stirrings in the Jug chaps 3 and 4;

Larry Bennett, "Harold Washington and the Black Urban Regime," Urban Affairs Quarterly 28 (March 1993);

Adolph Reed, "Whose 'New Black Politics'?" (photocopy)

Claire Jean Kim, "The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans", Politics and Society 27 (1999): 105-38;

Roger Waldinger, "When the Melting Pot Boils Over: The Irish, Jews, Blacks and Koreans of New York" in Michael Peter Smith and Joe R. Feagin, eds., The Bubbling Cauldron: Race, Ethnicity, and the Urban Crisis;

Michael Peter Smith and Bernadette Tarallo, "Who Are the 'Good Guys'? The Social Construction of the Vietnamese 'Other'" in Bubbling Cauldron;

Rufus Browning et al, Racial Politics in American Cities, intro, chaps 1, 10, 11-13

### **Week 9: Gentrification in Context**

#### **Reading:**

Neil Smith, The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City, chapters 1-9

### **Week 10: A New Urban Regime?**

#### **Readings:**

William Sites, Remaking New York: Primitive Globalization and the Politics of Urban Community

### **Week 11: Neoliberal Metropolitan Demographic Reorganization**

#### **Readings:**

Edward Goetz, Clearing the Way: Deconcentrating the Poor;

Larry Bennett and Adolph Reed, Jr., "The New Face of Urban Renewal: The Near North Redevelopment Initiative and the Cabrini-Green Neighborhood" in Without Justice for All

### **Week 12: Race & Urban Development in the Post-Jim Crow South**

#### **Readings:**

Smith, Education, Desegregation, and Development in Charlotte

### **Week 13:**

#### **Readings:**

Cowie, Capital Moves

### **Week 14: Conclusion -- Problems and Prospects**

#### **Readings:**

Andrew E. G. Jonas and David Wilson, eds. The Urban Growth Machine: Critical Perspectives Two Decades Later, all except chapters 10, 11, 13, and 14

Neil Smith, The New Urban Frontier, chap. 10;

Mike Davis, City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles, chapter 4;

Preston H. Smith, "'Self-Help', Black Conservatives and the New Black Privatism" in Without Justice for All;

Hanson & Pratt, chap. 7;