

Political Science 353
State and Local Politics
Winter 2009

Donovan
AH 418; x3018
Office Hours: Tues 10-12, & TBA

Course meets in CB 285 12 - 2 T, Th

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Course Themes:

In the first half of the course, we approach local politics in terms of a theory that assumes places compete over the positive and negative aspects of development. We examine this with historical and contemporary examples. We also seek to identify what motives cities have in using various types of public policies when competing with each other. A major theme is that development (zoning) policies are one of the few areas where cities exercise any political autonomy. We begin with an overview of the city in American political history, examine the relationship between urbanization and politics, then proceed to issues of conflict and inequality within (and between) cities. Emphasis is given to development issues and participation in local politics.

In the second half of the quarter, we examine how (or if) variation in state political institutions have implications for how politics works in different states. We also assess how (or if) politics are "different" in Washington state and the American west. For this reason, we spend some time examining how political institutions are structured in different states (e.g. governors' powers, political parties, courts, election rules). The last few weeks of the course focus on some of political phenomena that often characterize politics in the western states: direct democracy, tax revolts, and fiscal problems.

Course Texts: (you will need the following books)

Judd, D. and T. Swanstrom. 2006. *City Politics: Private Power and Public Policy*. New York: Harper Collins. 6th Edition or more recent

Donovan, Todd, Chris Z. Mooney and Daniel A. Smith. 2010. *State and Local Politics: Institutions and Reform: The Essentials*. Thomson Wadsworth.

Additional required readings are listed in the syllabus and are available electronically through the WWU library. Check the web version of the syllabus for updated links to reading materials.

Tasks:

Your evaluation (grade) will be, for the most part, based upon comprehension and application of topics covered in readings and lecture. An essay (to be discussed) is due in the eighth week of the quarter. The course grade will also be based, in part, on participation. This participation requires attending class, having read the material related to the discussion topic, preparing questions, and engaging in discussion.

Your course grade will be calculated according to:

Midterm:	30%
Essay:	25%
Final:	30%
Participation	15%

Course Outline: **These dates WILL change as we go**

Section One: Political Economy of Place (March 31; April 7)

Reading: Judd and Swanstrom, chpts 1 & 2

Recommended reading:

Paul Peterson. 1981. *City Limits*. University of Chicago Press.

John Logan and Harvey Molotch. 1987. *The Political Economy of Place*. UC Press.

Teibout, Charles 1956. "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditure." *Journal of Political Economy*. 64:416-24.

Seminars:

Introduction / Course Admin.	March 31
The Study of Local Politics	March 31
The Political Economy of Place	March 31

No class meeting April 2

April 7 Discussion: The Growth Machine

Reading. John Logan and Harvey Molotch. 1976. "The City as a Growth Machine" *American Journal of Sociology*.

Section Two: Cities in US History (April 9 - 16)

Reading: Judd and Swanstrom, chpt. 3 and 4
Donovan et al Chapter 9, thru p 257

Recommended reading:

Amy Bridges. 1987. *A City in the Republic: Antebellum New York and the Origins of Machine Politics*. Cornell.

William Riordan. 1963. *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*.

Seminars:

American Cities in Historical Perspective	April 9
The Urban Machine	April 9
The Reform Movement	April 14

April 16 Discussion: Sprawl vs. Density

Reading:

Froma Harrop. 2008. "Shhh! This Scares both parties" *Providence Journal*. Aug. 28.

Harriet King. 2000. "A High Density Project in a High Tech Area." *New York Times*. Oct. 1

Timothy Egan. 2002. "Sprawl-Weary Los Angeles Builds Up and In." *New York Times*. March 10.

Felicity Barringer. 2008. "California Moves on Bill to Curb Sprawl and Emissions." *New York Times*. August 29.

Section Three: The Reform Era and Consequences (April 21 - 23)

Reading: Donovan et al Chapter 9, part II; Donovan et al Chapter 3
Judd, Chpts 5 & 14

Recommended reading:

Amy Bridges. 1999. *Morning Glories: Municipal Reform In The Southwest*. Princeton Univ. Press.
Chandler Davidson and Korbel. 1981. "At-Large Elections and Minority-Group Representation."
Journal of Politics. 43:982-1005.

Seminars:

Post-reform Institutions	April 21
Participation and the Irony of Local Politics	April 21
Minority Representation	April 23

April 23 Discussion: Growth Management

Read:

Washington Research Council. 2001. *Washington's Growth Management Act: Goals and Promises*. (on-line)
Daniel M. Warner. 2004. "The Growth Management Act and Affordable Housing." *American Planning Association*. November. (on-line)
Justin Phillips and Eban Goodstein. 2000, "Growth Management and Housing Prices: The Case of Portland, OR." *Contemporary Economic Policy*. 18(3):334-44.
Jerry Cheslow. 1993. "Focus: Can Impact Fees Stunt a Town's Growth?" *New York Times*. April 4.

Section Four: Modern Suburbs (April 28-May 5)

Reading:

Judd and Swanstrom, chpts 6, 7, 8 & 9
Donovan et al Chapter 12 (via email)

Recommended readings:

Anthony Downs. 1973. *Opening up the Suburbs: An Urban Strategy for America*. Yale University Press.
David Rusk. 1993. *Cities without Suburbs*. Johns Hopkins University.

Seminars:

National Urban Policy / Rise of Suburbs	April 28
Suburb/City Competition and Stratification	April 30

April 30 Discussion: New Urbanism, Old Enclaves.

Reading:

Robert Johnson. 2005. "Why 'New Urbanism' Isn't for Everyone." *New York Times*. Feb 20.
Bradford McKee. 2005. "Gulf Planning Roils Residents." *New York Times*. December 8.
Timothy Egan 2002. "A Development Fuels Debate on Urbanism" *New York Times*. June 14.
Timothy Egan. 1995. "The Serene Fortress: A Special Report." *New York Times*.

MIDTERM (on or about May 5th)

Section Five: Local Growth and Revenue Politics (May 12-14)

Reading:

Judd and Swanstrom, chpts. 10, 11 & 12

No class meeting May 7

Seminars:

Local Economic Development Competition	May 12
Local Conflict Over Growth	May 14
Local Revenue sources	May 14

Section Six: State Institutions I (May 19-21)

Reading:

Donovan et al Chapter 5 & 6

Recommended reading:

Alan Rosenthal. 1998. *The Decline of Representative Democracy*. CQ Press.

Seminars:

Political Parties	May 19
Political Parties in Washington & the West	May 19
Interest Groups	May 21
State Legislatures	May 21

Section Seven: State Institutions II (May 26-28)

Reading:

Donovan et al Chapter 7, 8 and 4

Recommended reading:

Thomas Cronin. 1989. *Direct Democracy: The Politics of Initiative, Referendum and Reform*. Harvard.

Seminars:

The Governor	May 26
State Courts	May 26
Progressive Reforms & Direct Democracy	May 28
The Initiative Industrial Complex	May 28

Section Eight: State Policy

(June 2-4)

Reading:

Donovan et al Chapter 10

Recommended reading: TBA

Seminars:

State Fiscal Politics

June 2

Budgeting exercise

June 4

Exam review

TBA