

Spring 2010
 Political Science 255
 Monday 2:00-4:50 pm
 SSB 102

Professor Steven Erie
 Office: SSB 360
 Hours: Monday 1-2 pm, or by appt.
 Email: serie@ucsd.edu

SEMINAR IN URBAN POLITICS

I. COURSE OVERVIEW

The graduate urban politics seminar offers an in-depth exploration of key topics such as urban power structure and democracy; machine and reform politics; fiscal policy, bureaucratic politics and policymaking; growth politics and policymaking; minority group politics; urban regions and the global economy; and regional infrastructure, governance and economic development. The course has two broad objectives: to expose you to important theorizing about urban politics and acquaint you with field research methods.

Students are asked to participate in two ways. First, you are expected to participate actively in seminar discussions of each week's assigned readings. Second, you are asked to write two papers. The first paper consists of a critical review essay of the recommended readings for a given week (suggested length 10 pages) and presentation to the class. The second consists of a research paper on a topic of your choice (suggested length 25-30 pages). You will present your research progress in the last week of the course. Class discussion represents 25 percent of your course grade; the papers, 75 percent (critical review essay, 20%; research paper, 55%).

II. BOOKS TO BE PURCHASED

Robert Dahl, *Who Governs?* (Yale, 1961)
 Jessica Trounstein, *Political Monopolies in American Cities* (University of Chicago, 2008)
 Ester Fuchs, *Mayors and Money* (University of Chicago, 1992)
 Robert Caro, *The Power Broker* (Vintage: 1975)
 Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago, 1981)
 Clarence Stone, *Regime Politics* (Kansas, 1989)
 Raphael Sonenshein, *Politics in Black and White* (Princeton, 1993)
 Steven P. Erie, *Globalizing L.A.* (Stanford, 2004)
 Jeffrey Sellers, *Governing From Below* (Cambridge, 2002)
 Steven P. Erie, *Beyond 'Chinatown': The Metropolitan Water District, Growth, and the Environment in Southern California* (Stanford, 2006)

III. TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

- March 29 Course Introduction
- April 5 A. Urban Power Structure, Policymaking and Democracy
Dahl, *Who Governs?*, all.
- April 12 B. Machine and Reform Politics; Fiscal Policymaking
Trounstine, *Political Monopolies in American Cities*, all.
Fuchs, *Mayors and Money*, all.
- April 19 Library Resources/Field Research Methods
Meet at Geisel Library's Electronic Classroom (Room 274, left from main entrance). Library session will be led by the Urban/Government Documents Reference Librarian Rebecca Hyde. Field research methods also will be presented.
- April 26 C. Policy Implementation: Bureaucratic Politics and Policymaking
Caro, *The Power Broker*, all.
- May 3 D. Growth Politics and Policymaking
E. Minority Group Politics (I)
Peterson, *City Limits*, all.
Stone, *Regime Politics*, all.
- May 10 E. Minority Group Politics (II)
Sonenshein, *Politics in Black and White*, all.
Guest speaker: Raphael Sonenshein
- May 17 F. Urban Regions and the Global Economy
Erie, *Globalizing L.A.*, all.
Sellers, *Governing From Below*, all.
Guest speaker: Jefferey Sellers
- May 24 G. Regional Governance and Economic Development
Erie, *Beyond 'Chinatown'*, all.
- May 31 Student research presentations