“Politics in the City” is a seminar that offers an overview of contemporary urban society. In a course of just 14 weeks we cannot cover city politics in a comprehensive manner but problems of central importance that we do focus on include race, poverty, demographic trends, economic development, and sustainability. In this context, we’ll discuss such issues as immigration, political leadership, smart growth, business and government, and neighborhood revitalization.

The following books are required reading for the course:

- Matthew Desmond, *Evicted* (Crown, 2016)

For those enrolled in the class who are majors or prospective majors in Political Science, please know that “Politics in the City” fulfills the departmental requirement for a methods focused course. Also, this course counts toward the African/African American culture option. Please also note that because this is a sophomore-listed seminar, it does not fulfill the requirement for an advanced seminar for political science majors. (This year the course is open, however, to students at all levels, not just sophomores.)

Handouts from a book by W. Phillips Shively will be used to guide some of our discussions concerning how social scientists do research. In addition, part of our analysis of each of the other course readings will focus on questions of research design. The primary course requirements are as follows: two take-home essays (30 percent each); a research paper (30 percent) and class participation (10 percent). The research paper will be described in a separate document.

This is a small class and I hope to get to know each one of you well. I encourage you to make use of my office hours, Mondays from 3:00 to 4:30 and Wednesdays from 10:30-12:00. If these hours are not good for you, just let me know and we’ll arrange to meet at another time. Please feel free to come see me about the class, majoring in political science, pre-law at Tufts, Tufts-in-Washington, or about anything else I might be of assistance on. My phone number and e-mail addresses are ext. 7-3465 and jeffrey.berry@tufts.edu.
**September 12:** Introduction to the course

**September 19:** Desmond, *Evicted*, Prologue, Chaps. 1-9, 15-18, 20, 22-23, Epilogue, About this Project (the methods appendix)

**September 26:**
Raj Chetty et al., “Is the United States Still a Land of Opportunity?” (Trunk)
John Eligon, “A Year After Ferguson, Housing Segregation Defies Tools to Erase It” (Trunk; as you’re reading the article, note the embedded graphic and open as well)
Summary of Justice Department Report, “Here’s How Racial Bias Plays Out in Policing” (Trunk)

**October 3:** No class, Rosh Hashana

**October 10,** No class, University holiday

**October 17:** Shively, chap. 6 from *The Craft of Political Research*, handout
Benjamin Barber, *If Mayors Ruled the World*, Chap. 1, “If Mayors Ruled the World: Why They Should and How They Already Do” (on reserve)

**October 24:** O’Connor, *Building a New Boston*
Census Bureau, City of Boston (Trunk)
[Reports on Boston neighborhoods]

**October 31:** Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*, Chaps. 1-8
Casey Ross, “Transit-Oriented Development Provides Spark to Transform Dorchester” (Trunk)
“Green Line Extension Project” [click on all 8 slides] (Trunk)

[First essay question handed out]

**November 7:** Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*, Chap. 9 and Conclusion

[Essay due at beginning class]

**November 14:** Census Bureau, City of Somerville (Trunk)
“On Close Inspection, The Millennium Tower Stands Out” (Trunk)
Google “Millennium Tower Boston.” Peruse the real estate sites at top of the first page for various units in this building
Peruse real estate ads for Somerville, two family homes
Peruse real estate ads for Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston, single family homes
Richard Florida, “Startups and Venture Capital Go Urban” (Trunk)
**November 21:** Shively, chaps. 2 and 4 from *The Craft of Political Research*, handout
Katz and Bradley, *The Metropolitan Revolution*, Chap. 7, “Toward a Global Network of Trading Cities” (on reserve)
Barber, *If Mayors Ruled the World*, Chap. 9, “Linking Cities with Digital Technology” (on reserve)

[Second essay handed out]

**November 28:** Ehrenhalt, *The Great Inversion*

[Essay due by 3:00pm on November 30th]

**December 5:** Fitzgerald, *Emerald Cities*

**December 12:** Reports from students on research papers