“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, gentrification, and neighborhood revitalization.

The following books are required reading for the course:

Matthew Desmond, *Evicted* (Crown, 2016)
Richard Florida, *The New Urban Crisis*

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. (Those who are not sophomores require consent.)

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 1:30-3:00 and Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30. 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 11:** Introduction to the course

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

**September 25:**
- Raj Chetty et al., “Is the United States Still a Land of Opportunity?” (Trunk)
- Raj Chetty’s maps (Trunk)
- Michael Rosenwald and Michael Fletcher, “Why Wouldn’t $130 Million Transform One of Baltimore’s Poorest Places?” (Trunk)
- Jelani Cobb, “The Matter of Black Lives” (Trunk)

**October 2:** 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)
- O’Connor, *Building a New Boston*, Chaps 1-3

**October 9, No class, University holiday**

**October 16:** O’Connor, *Building a New Boston*, Chaps 4-9 and Conclusion
- Census Bureau, City of Boston (Trunk)
- [Reports on Boston neighborhoods]

**October 23:** Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*, Chaps. 1-8
- Census Bureau, City of Somerville (Trunk)
- SomerVision, Executive Summary (Trunk)
- Peruse real estate ads for Somerville, apartments and homes to buy
- Guest: George Proakis, Director of Planning, City of Somerville

- [First essay question handed out]

**October 30:** Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*, Chap. 9 and Conclusion

- [Essay due at beginning class]
November 6: Alan Ehrenhalt, *The Great Inversion*, Chap. 1
Casey Ross, “Transit-Oriented Development Provides Spark to Transform Dorchester” (Trunk)
Readings on “healthy communities” TBA
Guest: Ken Schwartz, Senior Vice President, VHB

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

November 20: 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)
[Second essay handed out]

November 27: Florida, *The New Urban Crisis*
[Essay due by 3:00pm on November 30th]

December 4: Fitzgerald, *Emerald Cities*

December 11: Reports from students on research papers