“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. We’ll also peer ahead and ask what the city of the future will look like in the near and intermediate term.

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. 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 team-based 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 3:00-4:30 and Wednesdays from 11:00-12:00. 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 5:** SPECIAL MEETING OF CLASS, 5:00-6:00 PM, SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, PACKARD HALL.
September 10: CLASS WILL NOT MEET BECAUSE OF THE JEWISH HOLIDAY

MODULE I: ENDURING PROBLEMS
September 17:
--Desmond, Evicted, Prologue, Chaps. 1-9, 15-18, 20, 22-23, Epilogue, About this Project (the methods appendix)

September 24:
--Raj Chetty et al., “Is the United States Still a Land of Opportunity?” (Canvas)
--Michael Rosenwald and Michael Fletcher, “Why Wouldn’t $130 Million Transform One of Baltimore’s Poorest Places?” (Canvas)
--Benjamin Barber, If Mayors Ruled the World, Chap. 1, “If Mayors Ruled the World: Why They Should and How They Already Do” (on reserve)
--Policy Brief: A New App for Cities

October 1:
--Shively, chap. 6 from The Craft of Political Research, handout
--O’Connor, Building a New Boston, Chaps 1-3

October 9 (Tuesday):
--O’Connor, Building a New Boston, Chaps 4-9 and Conclusion
Census Bureau, City of Boston <census.gov>, then “Quick Facts” at top, middle
--Brief student reports on Boston neighborhoods
--Policy Brief: Homeless in the City

MODULE II: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GENTRIFICATION
October 22:
--Alan Ehrenhalt, The Great Inversion, Chap. 1 (on reserve)
--Glaeser, Triumph of the City, Chaps. 1-7
--Policy Brief: WeWork <https://www.wework.com/l/boston--MA>

[First essay question handed out]

October 29:
--Glaeser, Triumph of the City, Chaps. 8, 9 and Conclusion
--Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley, The Metropolitan Revolution, Chapter 6, “The Rise of Innovation Districts” (on reserve)
--Census Bureau, City of Somerville <Census.gov>
--Guest speaker, Ms. Regina Bertholdo, Somerville School Department

[Essay due at beginning class; students presenting this day have a later due date]
November 5:
-- Katz and Nowak, *The New Localism*, chaps. 1-2, 4-5, 7-9
-- Casey Ross, “Transit-Oriented Development Provides Spark to Transform Dorchester” (Canvas)

_Policy Brief:_ Mayors for President?

Module III _Cities Face the Future_

November 19:
-- Guest Speaker, Mr. Brad Rawson, Director, Transportation and Infrastructure, City of Somerville
-- “_Taming the Autonomous Vehicle_” (Canvas)
-- “Ride Hailing Apps are Clogging New York’s Streets” (Canvas)

_Policy Brief:_ How much do You Need to Make to Buy a Condo at Millennium Towers?
-- [All students read] Robert Campbell, “On Close Inspection, The Millennium Tower Stands Out” (Canvas)
-- [All students Google] “Millennium Tower Boston.” Peruse the real estate sites at top of the first page for various units in this building
-- [For those student not presenting this policy brief] Peruse real estate ads for Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston, single family homes; or rents in Allston-Brighton section of Boston

[Second essay handed out]

November 26:
-- Shively, chaps. 2 and 4 from _The Craft of Political Research_, handout
-- “Google is Building a City of the Future in Toronto” (Canvas)

_Policy Brief:_ CCTV in all Neighborhoods Will Keep us all Safe”
CCTV in all Neighborhoods is a Serious Threat to our Privacy”

[Essay due at beginning class; students presenting this day have a later due date]

December 3:
-- Fitzgerald, _Emerald Cities_

_Policy Brief:_ Americans Should Pedal to Work

December 10:
-- Reports from students on research papers
[Papers due by 1:00 on Friday, December 14th, 1:00 pm]