

**PS 15, Politics in the City**  
**Professor Berry**  
**Fall, 2019**

**Office Hours M: 3:00-4:30**  
**W: 10:30-12:00**  
**jeffrey.berry@tufts.edu**

“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 environmental 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:

Thomas O’Connor, *Building a New Boston* (Northeastern University Press, 1993)  
Matthew Desmond, *Evicted* (Crown, 2016)  
Edward Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*, (Penguin, 2012)  
Joan Fitzgerald, *Emerald Cities* (Oxford University Press, 2010)  
Clayton Nall, *The Road to Inequality* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

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 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 9:** Introduction

## **MODULE I: ENDURING PROBLEMS**

**September 16:**

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

**September 23:**

--Raj Chetty et al., "Is the United States Still a Land of Opportunity?" (Canvas)  
--Laura Bliss, "Atlanta's Big Transit Vote is a Referendum on Race" (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)  
--Sarah Mayorga-Gallo, "People Were Not as Friendly as I Had Hoped," in Candis Watts Smith and Christina M. Greer, eds., *Black Politics in Transition* (on reserve)  
--*Policy Brief: A New App for Cities*

**September 30:** Rosh Hashana, no class

**October 7**

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

**October 15 (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: Mayors for President?*  
--First essay question posted, emailed to students Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>; due in hard copy by 4:00 in plastic receptacle outside Professor's Berry's office, second floor, Packard, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **MODULE II: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SEGREGATION, AND GENTRIFICATION**

**October 21:**

--Nall, *The Road to Inequality*  
-- *Policy Brief: Scooters a Help?*

**October 28:**

-- Research groups will meet with Professor Berry at appointed time within class period  
--Shively, chaps. 2 and 4 from *The Craft of Political Research*, handout

**November 4:**

- Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*, Chaps. 1-7
- Alan Ehrenhalt, *The Great Inversion*, Chap. 1 (on reserve)
- *Policy Brief*: WeWork <https://www.wework.com/l/boston--MA>
- Second paper handed out; due in hard copy by 4:00 in plastic receptacle outside Professor's Berry's office, second floor, Packard, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>.

**November 11:** Veterans' Day, no class**November 18:**

- 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)
- 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 students not presenting this policy brief] Peruse real estate ads for rental units in the Allston-Brighton section of Boston, as well as for single family homes in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston. Be ready to tell the class what you would be able to afford in Allston-Brighton your first year out of college (with or without roommates), and then for your first home 10 years out of college (in Jamaica Plain). You can substitute a neighborhood of your choosing in your home town instead of Jamaica Plain, Boston.

**Module III *Cities Face the Future*****November 25:**

- Casey Ross, "Transit-Oriented Development Provides Spark to Transform Dorchester" (Canvas)
- "*Taming the Autonomous Vehicle*" (Canvas)
- "Ride Hailing Apps are Clogging New York's Streets" (Canvas)
- "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

**December 2:**

- Fitzgerald, *Emerald Cities*
- Policy Brief*: Americans Should Pedal to Work

**December 9:**

- Reports from students on research papers
- [Papers due in hard copy by 1:00 in plastic receptacle outside Professor's Berry's office, second floor, Packard, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>]