Introduction

Through readings, lively class discussions, films, speakers, a research project, and a field trip, we will examine cities, urban change, and urban social policy. We begin by exploring American exceptionalism, the development and dismantling of the U.S. welfare state, the causes of poverty, and urban social needs. During the second half of the semester we will shift our focus to explore individual social policy areas, examine how policy has changed over the last 100 years and debate current policy issues. Throughout the semester, we will pay particular attention to politics, power, gender, race, class, and ethnicity.

Required Reading

Available at Rutgers University Bookstore


Course Pack
Available at Pequod Copy on Somerset Street

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance and class participation: You are required to read the assigned readings, attend class, and participate energetically in class discussions 15%
Exams: mid-term and final (25 each) 50%
Group Urban Policy Research Paper and Presentation: 35%
PART I. INTRODUCTION: URBAN POVERTY & SOCIAL POLICY

September 7. Introduction

Introductions
Course Overview
Expectations
Urban Need - contrasts, history
Urban Social Policy (in brief)


DiNitto. Chapter 1. Politics, Rationalism, and Social Welfare
Sugrue. Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2

Deliverable: Form Research Teams


Chapter 4. Preventing Poverty: The Social Insurance Programs

Visit http://www.whitehouse.gov
- What is the Administration’s social policy agenda?
- What is the Administration’s urban policy agenda?


Changing urban needs
Changing federal policy towards cities
From government to governance

Sugrue. Chapters 3, 4, & 5

Deliverable: Identify Research Topic, Hypotheses, and Research Questions

Speaker 11:15 Karen Hartman, Social Sciences Librarian, Alexander Library

October 5. Defining Poverty, Urban Poverty, Why are People Poor?


October 12: Why are People Poor Part II


Chapter 2. The Case for Deconcentration

Chapter 3. Programs to Deconcentrate the Poor

Sugrue. Chapter 6

Deliverable: Research Project Section I

October 19. Mid-term

October 26. Welfare


Film: *Take it From Me. P.O.V. by Emily Abt.* PBS

November 2. Education


Chapter 1 Cities, Urban Schools, and Current Visions of Educational Reform and

Sugrue. 7 & 8

*****November 3. Special Event****

Lecture by Robert A. Beauregard,
Milano Graduate School, New School University.

“Cities and Suburbs in the Cold War: America’s Global Project.”

4:30pm. College Hall, Livingston Student Center. For more information: http://livingston.rutgers.edu/news/globalfutures/gf0405/beauregard.html
November 9. Employment


Deliverable: Research Paper Section II

Film: Bread and Roses

November 16. Health

DiNitto. Chapter 8. Improving Health Care: Treating the Nation’s Ills


Speaker 11:30: Mary Abernathy, New Community Corporation, Newark

November 23. Community Development


Sugrue. 9 & Conclusion

November 30. & December 7. Presentations & Final Exam Review

15 minute in-class presentation
Bring your presentation on a CD-Rom

Deliverable: Papers Due
RESEARCH PAPER AND PRESENTATION

You may do the research project alone or in a group of no more than 3 people. Select an urban social policy topic/issue and a city in which to research the topic.

Policy Topics:
Following are some policy areas and programs to get you thinking. If you are interested in a policy area not listed, you may select it with my approval.

**Housing and Community Development**
Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Hope VI, Section 8 (project and or voucher), Moving to Opportunity, Public Housing, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, State Enterprise Zones, Individual Development Accounts

**Welfare**
TANF, Reauthorizing Welfare

**Healthcare**
Medicaid, CHIP, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Lead poisoning, programs related to specific groups - elderly, children, women, etc... Vaccination Programs

**Employment**
Workforce Investment Act, Living Wage Legislation

**Education**
State take over of urban school districts, Abbott, School reform policies, Charters, Vouchers

**Tax**
Earned Income Tax Credit

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND PAPER OUTLINE

**SECTION 1. IDENTIFY AN URBAN SOCIAL POLICY (CHOOSE FROM LIST PROVIDED)**
Research the policy’s history and objectives (Internet and library)
- When was it created?
- Why was it created?
  - How does it fit with earlier policy efforts designed to meet this need?
- Who created it?
- What is the theory behind the policy (what is it supposed to do and why?)

**SECTION II. EXAMINE THE NEED FOR THE POLICY IN THE CITY OF YOUR CHOICE**
- Identify and analyze appropriate quantitative data (ie census)
- Conduct a literature review (newspaper articles, journal articles, reports, books etc...)

**SECTION III. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**
- How is the policy implemented?
- What levels of government are responsible and what are they responsible for?
- Who are the key players involved in implementation?
- Who decides who gets the money and how the money is spent?
- Does implementation differ from what the originators intended?
- What issues have emerged in implementation?
• What does how it is implemented tell you about local politics and who has power?
• How does this differ from how the program is implemented in other cities?

SECTION IV. RECOMMENDATIONS, ADDITIONAL RESEARCH
• Based on your research, how could the policy be improved?
• Is the Bush Administration proposing to change this policy? If so, how and what do you think about the proposed changes based on your research findings?
• Identify questions for future research

PRESENTATION
• What is your project about?
• What are your research questions?
• What methods did you use to answer the questions?
• What did you find?
• What are your conclusions?

Paper Guidelines:
15-20 pages
1.5 spaced
1-inch margins
12 point font

Each day your paper is late, your grade will drop by a full letter (i.e. you earned an "A" but your paper was a day late, you get a "B")

Due Dates:
September 14 Form Research Teams
September 28 Identify Research Topic, Hypotheses, and Research Questions
October 12 Section I due
November 9 Section II due
November 30 Final Papers due:
Nov 30 & Dec 7 Presentations

As you turn in each section, I will grade and return your papers to you. You can improve your grade by revising your sections based on my comments.