

# PSCI 372-001: The City in American Political Development

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Spring 2021  
Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:50 AM  
Remote (synchronous)

Office hours: <https://jacksantucci.as.me>

## 1 Overview & goals

American political development (APD) is the study of how U.S. politics got to be the way it is, then how that might have gone differently. Urban political development (UPD) uses the APD approach to study major issues in the field of urban politics. This course looks at three such topics, all of which are connected: race, economics, and the national party system. We will cover these more or less chronologically, following the development of the United States polity. A running theme is whether and what the past can tell us about the future.

Students are required to lead discussion/present the readings. I will assess your learning (and effort) mostly through your writing. The essay assignments ask you to show mastery of course concepts, then apply them to a different set of facts.

In short, the course has three goals:

1. Familiarize you with the fields of urban politics and American political development.
2. Give you practice writing clearly, because writing and thinking are inseparable.
3. Prepare you to weigh potential consequences of policy choices and reform efforts in your own community.

## 2 Required work product

Your grade will be based on the following components:

1. Class participation (15%) – Based mostly on attendance, but also quality of additions to discussion. Try to do two things as you prepare for class: (1) find and understand

the key distinction(s) in the readings, and (2) have some sense of how they relate to key distinctions from earlier classes.

2. Presentation (15%) – On the first day of class, we will assign one (or more) person (people) to present each day’s reading. Your job is to find its core claim, get a sense of the evidence, and figure out how these relate to overarching course themes. You do not need to prepare slides, but you may if they are helpful. Please see this for tips: [https://jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/advice\\_for\\_readers.pdf](https://jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/advice_for_readers.pdf).
3. Midterm and final papers (35% each) – Prompts are forthcoming. Expect having to write 1,000-1,500 words for each (4-6 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font). The prompts will ask you to integrate and reflect on course material up to that point. Here are my guidelines on writing strong essays: [https://jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/how\\_to\\_write\\_an\\_a\\_paper.pdf](https://jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/how_to_write_an_a_paper.pdf). One will be due at 11:59 PM (Eastern) on **Friday, April 30**. The other will be due at 11:59 PM (Eastern) on **Wednesday, June 9**. Each must be uploaded to Turnitin, via Blackboard.

### 3 E-mail policy

1. Use a subject line that indicates your need. Please don’t reply to a blanket email sent through Blackboard, nor to a thread about some other issue.
2. Include the full course number (i.e., PSCI-372-001).
3. Be as specific as possible, and use complete sentences.
4. Keep all correspondence with respect to the same issue in the same thread. Start a different thread for a different issue.
5. Use your Drexel email so that I can search my inbox for your username.

### 4 No redistribution of course materials

The following language is provided by Drexel University:

It is important to recognize that some or all of the course materials provided to you may be the intellectual property of Drexel University, the course instructor, or others. Use of this intellectual property is governed by Drexel University policies, including the IT-1 policy found here: <https://drexel.edu/it/about/policies/policies/01-Acceptable-Use>.

Briefly, this policy states that course materials, including recordings, provided by the course instructor may not be copied, reproduced, distributed or re-posted. Doing so may be considered a breach of this policy and will be investigated and addressed as possible academic dishonesty, among other potential violations. Improper use of such materials may also constitute a violation of the University’s Code of Conduct found here: <https://drexel.edu/cpo/policies/cpo-1> and will be investigated as such.

## 5 Other policies

You agree to:

1. Treat guest speakers and classmates with respect.
2. Check Drexel email daily through the date of the final exam.
3. Attend class and meet course deadlines. Out-of-class written work loses five points for each 24-hour period past the time and date it is due.
4. Use Internet search or a dictionary to look up words you do not know.
5. Abide by all other Drexel policies, found at the following websites. Note that I reserve the right to use plagiarism-detection software.
  - Academic integrity: <https://drexel.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity>.
  - Disability accommodation: <https://drexel.edu/oed/disabilityResources/students>.
  - Add/Drop: <https://www.drexel.edu/provost/policies/course-add-drop>.
  - Course withdrawal: <https://drexel.edu/provost/policies/course-withdrawal>.
  - Incomplete grades: [https://drexel.edu/provost/policies/incomplete\\_grades](https://drexel.edu/provost/policies/incomplete_grades).
  - Grade appeals: <https://drexel.edu/provost/policies/grade-appeals>.

I agree to:

1. Abide by any grading guidelines in this syllabus and related instructions for assignments. Grading is on the 0-100 scale: 97 and up (A+), 93-96 (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-87 (B), 80-82 (B-), and so on, down to 50 (F). Rounding occurs for final grades only, to the nearest whole number. The rounding threshold is 0.5 percentage points.
2. Answer student e-mail within 48 business hours. Business hours are 9 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday, non-holiday.
3. Except for any required books, post links to readings on Blackboard, if not the readings themselves.
4. Grade written work within 10 business days of submission.
5. Notify you of changes to this syllabus at least one week in advance of affected due dates.
6. Give office hours on a by-appointment basis. (See link above.) Students who are not in Philadelphia can book these times for phone conversations.

## 6 Schedule of readings and classes

### 6.1 Introduction

**Monday, March 29:** This syllabus and my guidelines for papers: [https://jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/how\\_to\\_write\\_an\\_a\\_paper.pdf](https://jacksantucci.com/docs/syllabi/how_to_write_an_a_paper.pdf).

**Wednesday, March 31:** Symposium from *A House Divided* (April 2019):

- Anna Law, “What is American Political Development?” <https://ahousedividedapd.com/2019/04/02/what-is-american-political-development>.
- Steven White, “What’s so American about American Political Development?” <https://ahousedividedapd.com/2019/04/02/whats-so-american-about-american-politi>
- Boris Heersink, “No, Really, What is APD?” <https://ahousedividedapd.com/2019/04/04/no-really-what-is-apd>.

**Monday, April 5:** Weaver, Timothy P. R. 2021. “Charting Change in the City: Urban Political Orders and Urban Political Development.” *Urban Affairs Review*, early version.

**Wednesday, April 7:** Teles, Steven. 2021. “Can Republicans Capitalize on Urban Political Opportunity?” *City Journal*, March 11. <https://www.city-journal.org/how-republicans-can-become-viable-in-american-cities>.

### 6.2 The party system

**Monday, April 12:** Broxmeyer, Jeffrey D. 2020. *Electoral Capitalism: The Party System in New York’s Gilded Age*, pp. 1-25 and 122-51. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

**Wednesday, April 14:** Shefter, Martin. 1983. “Regional Receptivity to Reform: The Legacy of the Progressive Era.” *Political Science Quarterly* 98 (3): 459-83.

**Monday, April 19:** Shefter, Martin. 1986. “Political Incorporation and the Extrusion of the Left: Party Politics and Social Forces in New York City.” *Studies in American Political Development* 1: 50-90.

**Wednesday, April 21:** Rodden, Jonathan. 2019. *Why Cities Lose: The Deep Roots of the Urban-rural Political Divide*, pp. 1-38. New York: Basic Books.

### 6.3 Segregation

**Monday, April 26:** Trounstein, Jessica. 2018. *Segregation by Design: Local Politics and Inequality in American Cities*, pp. 1-45. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Wednesday, April 28:** Ferranti, Michelle. 2009. “Race and the Politics of Suburbanization.” *Journal of Urban History* 35 (3): 449-56.

## 6.4 Economic opportunity

**Monday, May 3:** Thurston, Chloe. 2018. *At the Boundaries of Homeownership: Credit, Discrimination, and the American State*. pp. 71-98. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Wednesday, May 5:** Chen, Anthony S., Robert W. Mickey, and Robert P. Van Houweling. 2008. "Explaining the Contemporary Alignment of Race and Party: Evidence from California's 1946 Ballot Initiative on Fair Employment." *Studies in American Political Development* 22 (2): 204-28.

## 6.5 Policing

**Monday, May 10:** Fortner, Michael Javen. 2013. "The Carceral State and the Crucible of Black Politics: An Urban History of the Rockefeller Drug Laws." *Studies in American Political Development* 27 (1): 14-35.

**Wednesday, May 12:** Musgrave, Paul. 2020. "Bringing the State Police In: The Diffusion of U.S. Statewide Policing Agencies, 1905-1941." *Studies in American Political Development* 34 (1): 3-23.

## 6.6 Democracy reform

**Monday, May 17:** Burnham, Robert A. 2013. "Women and Reform: Responsible Citizenship and the Politics of 'Good Government,' 1924-1955." *Ohio Valley History* 13 (2): 48-69.

**Wednesday, May 19:** Thompson, Carl D. 1913. "The Vital Points in Charter Making from a Socialist Point of View." *National Municipal Review* 2 (3): 416-26.

**Monday, May 24:** Crumlish, Joseph D. 1959. *A City Finds Itself: The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter Movement*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015049269932>. **SKIM**.

## 6.7 Measurement issues

**Wednesday, May 26:** Anzia, Sarah F. 2021. "Party and Ideology in American Local Government: An Appraisal." *Annual Review of Political Science* 24: 6.1-6.18.

**Wednesday, June 2** Lucas, Jack. 2021. "The Ideological Structure of Municipal Non-Ideology." Working paper.