

PLS 422  
Fall, 2007

Dr. Emily Gil  
BR 426D

In this course we shall first try to secure an overview of some of the problems and prospects of urban areas today. Then we shall look in more detail at several particular issue areas. In addition to Judd and Swanstrom, the major introductory book, there are four other books. Hochschild and Scovronick examine the gap between the belief in the American dream and its practice in public education. Hancock addresses some of background behind the disgust that many Americans feel towards welfare recipients. Arnold considers the relationships between homelessness and citizenship. And Pierce and Miller examine the politics of an increasingly popular, though controversial, reliance on gambling revenues by state and local governments.

The course will consist primarily of discussion of issues central to the course material. Class discussion will depend heavily upon your own preparation, and it is expected that you will have read and reflected upon the material assigned for each class period and will be ready to discuss the issues raised by the assignments. For the same reason, your attendance is also important. Moreover, each of you will lead discussion at least once during the semester on the assigned reading for that day.

Your work (and grade) in the course will include three components. First, each of you will write a short (about five double-spaced typed pages) critical analysis of two of the five books assigned. These analyses should demonstrate your ability to analyze and to think critically about the central issues raised by each book. There will be two written, in-class exams, one partway through the semester and the other during the final exam period. Finally, each of you will lead class discussion two days during the semester on one of the books on which you have done/will do a critical analysis. Each analysis and each exam will count 20% ; your class presentations and general contributions together will also count 20% .

Be informed that every letter grade means something definite, as follows. C means you show evidence of reading the course material and at least attempt to participate on a regular basis. D is for those who fall below this wide mark. You seem to have read the material in sketchy fashion and/or do not appear to be grappling with the dilemmas of politics. B goes to those who show a solid grasp of the material and its perplexities. This means knowing the material and participating in class--but also means having thought out the material and its implications. A , the gold medal, is reserved for those who have done all that is expected of the B's and demonstrate an additional measure of critical incisiveness and clearly articulated imagination.

| CLASS OF             | ASSIGNMENT  |                       |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Aug. 30              | No class: Prof. Gill is at APSA in Chicago  |                       |
| Sept. 4<br>Sept. 6   | Introduction; Judd & Swanstrom, <i>City Politics</i> , Ch. 1<br>Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 2-3   |                       |
| Sept. 11<br>Sept. 13 | Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 4-5<br>Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 6-7  |                       |
| Sept. 18<br>Sept. 20 | Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 8-9<br>Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 10-11  |                       |
| Sept. 25<br>Sept. 27 | Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 12-13<br>FOUNDER'S DAY (No classes 10-noon)   |                       |
| Oct. 2<br>Oct. 4     | Judd & Swanstrom, Ch. 14-15<br>Hochschild & Scovronick, <i>The American Dream and the Public Schools</i> , Introduction & Ch. 1-2 | Washington<br>Mierzwa |
| Oct. 9<br>Oct. 11    | FALL BREAK<br>H & S, Ch. 3-4  | Norris                |
| Oct. 16<br>Oct. 18   | H & S, Ch. 5-6<br>H & S, Ch. 7-8  | Misigaro<br>Bond      |
| Oct. 23<br>Oct. 25   | TEST 1<br>Hancock, <i>The Politics of Disgust</i> , Ch. 1   | Robertson             |
| Oct. 30<br>Nov. 1    | Hancock, Ch. 2<br>Hancock, Ch. 3-4  | Favia<br>Hakes        |
| Nov. 6<br>Nov. 8     | Hancock, Ch. 5-7<br>Arnold, <i>Homelessness, Citizenship, and Identity</i> ,<br>Ch. 1-2   | Mierzwa<br>Hakes      |
| Nov. 13<br>Nov. 15   | Arnold, Ch. 3<br>Arnold, Ch. 4  | Favia                 |
| Nov. 20<br>Nov. 22   | Arnold, Ch. 5-6<br>THANKSGIVING   | Washington            |
| Nov. 27<br>Nov. 29   | Pierce & Miller, <i>Gambling Politics</i> , Ch. 1-3<br>Pierce & Miller, Ch. 4   | Norris<br>Robertson   |
| Dec. 4<br>Dec. 6     | Pierce & Miller, Ch. 5<br>Pierce & Miller, Ch. 6-7  | Bond<br>Misigaro      |
| Dec. 11              | Conclusion  |                       |
| Dec. 18              | TEST 2: 2:30-3:45 p.m.  |                       |