

COURSE: **BLS-426 Comparative Urban Politics**  
 MEETING TIMES: M-W, 8:45 - 10:50 am, Room 233  
 INSTRUCTOR: Ed Liebow; liebow@seanet.com; liebow@u.washington.edu  
 OFFICE: Room 236; M & W 11 am - noon, and by appointment  
 PHONE: 425/352-5285 (UW-Bothell) or 206/675-1002

**Required Readings:**

Gmelch, George and Walter P. Zenner, editors  
 1996 *Urban Life: Readings in Urban Anthropology*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.  
 Wilson, Elizabeth  
 1991 *The Sphinx in the City. Urban Life, The Control of Disorder, and Women*. Berkeley: University of California Press

**Schedule:**

<u>Week 1</u>	<b>Introduction: The Essence of Urbanism</b>
Mon, Jan 5	Introductions and Course Overview
Wed, Jan 7	Urban Governance Systems and Policy Tools <i>Take-Home Assignment. Allocating Budget Scarcities</i>
<u>Week 2</u>	<b>Urbanization in Worldwide Perspective</b>
Mon, Jan 12	The Urban Experience (Gmelch and Zenner, pp. 1-81; Wilson Chpts. 1 & 2)
Wed, Jan 14	Urbanization: A Worldwide Perspective -- Cities From Ancient Times To The Industrial Revolution; Industrialization (Gmelch & Zenner pp. 82-103)
<u>Week 3</u>	<b>Metropolis and Satellite: A Model and Its Political Implications</b>
Mon, Jan 19	<i>No Class, Martin Luther King Birthday</i>
Wed, Jan 21	The Modern World System and Economic Development/Underdevelopment (Wilson Chpts. 3 & 4)
<u>Week 4</u>	<b>Migration, Settlement Patterns &amp; Effects on Public Service Delivery</b>
Mon, Jan 26	Urbanization: Migration and Megacities (Gmelch and Zenner 187 - 292)
Wed, Jan 28	Internal Structure of the Metropolis -- Congestion and Deconcentration, Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Life Cycles; Suburbanization (Wilson Chpts. 5 & 6); <b>First Paper Due</b>
<u>Week 5</u>	<b>Segregation</b>
Mon, Feb 2	Residential Segregation in Urban Areas -- The Burgess Hypothesis And Its Critics
Wed, Feb 4	Family Life-Cycle Segregation; Social Class Segregation (Gmelch and Zenner pp. 298 - 334)
<u>Week 6</u>	<b>Housing Problems, and Community Development</b>
Mon, Feb 9	Residential Segregation (continued) -- Ethnic Segregation; Neighborhood Change & Gentrification (Gmelch and Zenner pp. 335 - 366)
Wed, Feb 11	Urban Problems -- Finding A Home For Everybody; The Poverty Cycle; Welfare in an International Perspective (Gmelch and Zenner pp.368 - 417; 510-523)
<u>Week 7</u>	<b>Financing Health Care and Transportation Services</b>
Mon, Feb 16	<i>No Class, Presidents Day Holiday</i>
Wed, Feb 18	Urban Problems -- Urban Service Delivery Systems (Health Care & Transportation); Urban Finances (Wilson Chpts. 7)
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<u>Week 8</u>	<b>Education and Public Safety</b>
Mon, Feb 23	Urban Problems Urban Education (Gmelch and Zenner pp. 418 - 458)
Wed, Feb 25	Urban Problems Violence and Public Safety; <b>Second Paper Due</b>

Week 9

Mon, Mar 2

Wed, Mar 4

**Interest Group Politics and Political Process**

Urban Politics -- Ethnic Groups, Interest Groups, and the Political Process (Wilson Chpt. 8)

Urban Governance Systems Revisited: **SimCity Exercise DUE**

Week 10

Mon, Mar 10

Wed, Mar 12

**Sustainable Cities**

Conclusion: The Politics of Sustainability (Wilson Chpt. 9)

Sustainable Cities (concludes); Evaluate the Instructor and give feedback on the course;  
Distribute Take-Home Exams

Week 11

Mon, Mar 16

Wed, Mar 18

**FINALS WEEK**

No class; work on your exams

**TAKE-HOME EXAMS DUE by 9 a.m.**

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Liebow's Grading Guidelines:**

- 3.8-4.0:** Clear statement of problem or point of view with respect to issue(s) to be discussed; excellent use of primary sources as support; clear, grammatical writing and appropriately formatted citations/bibliographic entries; writing extends beyond basic summary of events and engages in creative reflection; considers arguments that potentially undermine the position being support, and acknowledges both (a) their plausibility, and (b) their limitations; provides complete consideration of all parts of the question / assigned discussion topic.
- 3.2-3.7:** Clear statement of problem or point of view to be supported; Good use of sources; good organization and few problems with clarity, grammar or bibliographic format; good treatment many issues involved in answering the question / discussing the assigned topic.
- 2.5-3.1:** General grasp of basic issues but failed to illustrate argument beyond generalities; writing style and formatting show lack of clarity or sloppiness; failure to answer important parts of the question / excluded key aspects of assigned topic.
- 1.0-2.5:** Failure to answer the question; poor writing; vague expression / lack of appropriate detail; no evidence of careful consideration.
- 0.0:** Failure to turn in assignment.
- NOTE:** Unless a prior arrangement has been made with the instructor, assignments turned in to the instructor after the beginning of the class session on the announced due date will have one full grade point (1.0) deducted for each day their completion is delayed.

### CHIEF BUDGET OFFICER FOR A DAY: ALLOCATING BUDGET SCARCITIES

The purpose of this assignment is to generate some data for class discussion about the use of a key policy tool - **budgets**. Each student will individually allocate your ideal municipal budget according to whatever priority ranking scheme you choose -- be prepared to describe it in class. You will then be asked to say where you would make budget cuts, or reallocate your budget IF your revenues were to decline and you only had 3/4ths of the money to spend on public facilities and services.

#### THEN

Students will divide themselves into four small groups. Each group will be asked to find some actual municipal government budget data for city governments that we classify as "large" or "small", with "growing" or "stable / declining" populations. You will need to be careful about the classification of metropolitan areas, like Seattle, where the area as a whole is growing rapidly, but the central city's population is stable or declining. Please analyze the budget data you collect, and allocate it in percentages according to the same categories you ranked in your earlier prioritization exercise.

Be prepared to offer some observations about similarities and differences between your ideal scheme, your allocation of scarcity, and actual budget allocations you discovered. What hypotheses can you offer about how cities in different circumstances support the provision of public facilities and services?

#### Assignment:

1. Fill in the first blank column on the attached sheet, allocating the total budget into the categories given, according to your view of what makes for a liveable, functioning city.
2. Now fill in the cells in second column, indicating how you would allocate the total budget if you only had 3/4ths the budget.
3. Have each person in your group fill in another blank sheet for a city that fits the category we assigned in class ("Large-Growing;" "Large-Stable/Declining;" "Small-Growing;" "Small-Stable/Declining"). Use the World Wide Web to find some actual municipal government budgets (**Hint:** one place to look for US municipal governments is at the "Cities Index" web site that starts with: <http://www.ci.<city name>.<two-letter state abbreviation>.us> (e.g., <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/budget/>)
4. What hypotheses can you offer about the effects that demographic dynamics might have on use of municipal budgets as a policy instrument?

## CITY MANAGER FOR THE DAY: ALLOCATING BUDGET SCARCITIES

Government Function	Prosperity Rules Your Priority Ranking (% of Budget Awarded)	Turn Out The Lights: What If You Had To Cut Total Budget By 25%?	Notes To Yourself For Wednesday's Discussion
<b>Cultural Resources</b> Arts Historic Preservation Museums Libraries			
<b>Education</b> Schools (Elementary and Secondary) Adult and Vocational Education Extension Services			
<b>Finance and  Administration</b> Business Licensing Planning and Zoning Financial Mgmnt & Tax Collection Economic Development Civil Rights Consumer Affairs Ethics and Elections City Property Management City Council Operations			
<b>Parks and Recreation</b> Park & Facility Maintenance Recreation Activities			
<b>Public Safety</b> Police Fire Emergency Medical Service Courts			
<b>Public Works / Utilities</b> Energy (Electricity & Natural Gas) Water Solid Waste and Recycling Wastewater & Storm Water Treatment Elctronic Communications/info Systems Envrnmntl Compliance & Education Streets and traffic flow Public transit Stadiums			

<b>Social and Health Services</b> Housing Homeless shelters Income Assistance Job Training Mental health care services Youth Services Family Services Senior Services Alcohol and Substance Abuse services Clinics and non-emergency health care			
Other (Be Specific)			
TOTAL	100	75	

**FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT: BOOK REVIEW ON *URBANISM***

- DUE DATE:** Wednesday, January 28, 1998
- ASSIGNMENT:** Prepare a written review of a book whose main topic is "Urbanism." This review should be about 3 - 5 double-spaced typewritten pages (1,500 - 2,000 words). You may choose your book from the bibliography distributed in class. If you would like to review a book that is not on this list, please get the instructor's approval first.
- FORM:** Please type the review. Check it carefully for errors in spelling and grammar. Place the full bibliographic citation for the book at the beginning of the review, along with "Reviewed by - <your name>." Follow the citation style that most major social science journals use: when you cite or quote from a reference, note the citation within the text in parentheses with the author's last name, the year of original publication, and the page number [e.g., (Weber 1958: 114), or, if it is from the book you are reviewing, simply (1 14)]. You should list any other publications that you cite in a "References Cited" section at the end of your review.
- CONTENT:** What goes into your book review? Mainly, answers to three key questions: (1) What is the book about? What are its central points, or arguments, and what evidence is used to support these points? (2) How does this book contribute new knowledge to an existing topical domain? To what extent does it support, depart from, or contradict the ideas of others writing on the same topic? and (3) For what audiences, if any, do you think this book is most suitable? Is it mainly intended for a general readership, students and researchers, or would other special categories of readers (e.g., policy-makers, law enforcement officials, small business owners, travelers, or others) find it useful.
- For the purposes of this review, I would like you to focus on how the book you select contributes to our understanding of the notion of **URBANISM** - what we will be discussing in class for much of the first part of the course. We will be looking at the inconsistencies and contradictions in roles and relationships that urban social life embodies, the sheer demographic size, density, and diversity of urban populations, as well as the moral arguments that scholars have used to distinguish urban life and account for forms of political systems. In this first part of the course, we will also be looking at a historical continuum of political economies (pre-industrial, industrial, post-industrial) and their impacts of urbanization, with special emphasis on a "dependence" theory of Third World urbanization. Between this discussion on political economy and Elizabeth Wilson's argument about sexual politics and the control of disorder, you should have a reasonably rich context within which to read and critically evaluate the book of your choice.

**SECOND WRITING ASSIGNMENT: BOOK REVIEW ON  
*LOCAL PROBLEMS - LOCAL SOLUTIONS***

**DUE DATE:** Wednesday, February 25, 1998

**ASSIGNMENT:** Prepare a written review of a book whose main topic is "**Local Problems-Local Solutions.**" This review should be about 3 - 5 double-spaced typewritten pages (1,500 - 2,000 words). You may choose your book from the "Urbanism" bibliography distributed in class, but you are not required to do so. See the instructor if you want further advice on selecting a book.

**FORM:** Please type the review. Check it carefully for errors in spelling and grammar. Place the full bibliographic citation for the book at the beginning of the review, along with "Reviewed by - <your name>." Follow the citation style that most major social science journals use: when you cite or quote from a reference, note the citation within the text in parentheses with the author's last name, the year of original publication, and the page number [e.g., (Weber 1958: 114), or, if it is from the book you are reviewing, simply (1 14)]. You should list any other publications that you cite in a "References Cited" section at the end of your review.

**CONTENT:** What goes into your book review? Mainly, answers to three key questions: (1) What is the book about? What are its central points, or arguments, and what evidence is used to support these points? (2) How does this book contribute new knowledge to an existing topical domain? To what extent does it support, depart from, or contradict the ideas of others writing on the same topic? and (3) For what audiences, if any, do you think this book is most suitable? Is it mainly intended for a general readership, students and researchers, or would other special categories of readers (e.g., policy-makers, law enforcement officials, small business owners, travelers, or others) find it useful.

For the purposes of this review, I would like you to focus on how the book you select highlights **LOCAL PROBLEMS-LOCAL SOLUTIONS**, and especially, the **ROLE OF GOVERNMENT** (either in creating the problems or devising solutions). Choose a book that focuses on a particular city, or that compares the approaches that different cities have taken to addressing problems we are discussing in class: housing, poverty, health care, transportation, education, public safety, environmental pollution. Even if the scope of the book is broader than this "problem-solving" theme, please note its more encompassing scope but focus your discussion on how it treats the role of government.



**SimCity 2000@@ ASSIGNMENT**

**DUE DATE:** Wednesday, March 4, 1998

**ASSIGNMENT:** Use SimCity 2000 to become familiar with the built environment of cities, how this built environment interacts with local terrain and water resources, and how cities can change over time.

**Prepare a written summary describing the highlights of the exercises outlined below, and be prepared to discuss your observations with the class.**

SimCity 2000 is loaded onto two Macintoshes (#s 1 and 8) in the UW-Bothell personal computing lab. The instruction manual is at the "Help Desk." If you missed the in-class demonstration and are not at all familiar with the program, you may want to pay special attention to Exercise 1.

**Exercise 1:** (Get Familiar With The Program - 45 - 60 minutes)

Follow the instructions for getting started. Learn how to work the menus, Select **"Load a New City"** from the File Menu, with the settings on "Easy," Date=1 950, and make sure you say "No Disasters." You may also want to click on **"Music"** in the "Options" menu to turn off the background noise. Look at the "Windows" Menu, and click on the **"Ordinances," "Population,"** and **"Industry"** commands. [Advanced users may want to see the effect of different start dates (Medieval times, futuristic starting points) on technology and settlement pattern choices].

Follow the instructions, installing a power plant and electrical transmission lines, industry, residential areas, commercial areas, roads and railways, schools, parks, and public safety facilities. Pay attention to where industry is located in relation to residential areas; where pollution emissions are likely to go (in relation to water ways and outdoor areas protected for their amenities).

**Exercise 2:** (How "Real" Simulated Cities Are Put Together - 30 minutes) Using the **"Load City"** command in the File Menu, take a look at Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, Paris, and Las Vegas. Examine the **"Industry"** and **"Ordinances"** Windows, and also look closely at where the power plants, water sources, road, and mass transit systems are located in relation to residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

**Exercise 3:** (Build Your Own City, 60 minutes)

Using the **"Edit New Map"** command in the File Menu, create your own natural topography. See what effects are created from different combinations of mountains, water, and trees (including the presence/absence of coast lines and rivers), and alter the terrain to create scenic overlooks or riverfront promenades. Click "Done" and repeat Exercise 1 with this "New Map."

**Extra Fun:** (Save Chicago From Itself)

Using the "**Load Scenarios**" command from the File Menu, select the **clean-up Chicago** scenario and see whether you can make a dent.

- OR-

See what happens if you build an ecological utopia - all mass transit / no cars, all solar and hydropower.

**Urbanism and Community Development**

**Selected Books for Writing Assignments 1 & 2**

- Ambrose, Peter J. 1994. *Urban Process and Power*. New York: Routledge.
- Banfield, Edward. 1974. *The Unheavenly City Revisited*. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co.
- Bourgois, Phillipe. 1995. *In Search of Respect. Selling Crack in El Barrio*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Byrne, James M., and Robert J. Sampson, editors. 1986. *The Social Ecology of Crime*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
- Calvino, Italo. 1972. *Invisible Cities*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.
- Capek, Stella M., and John I. Gilderbloom. 1992. *Community Versus Commodity. Tenants and the American City*. Albany: SUNY Press.
- Cross, Malcolm, and Michael Keith, editors. 1993. *Racism, The City and The State*. New York: Routledge.
- Dahl, Robert A. 1961. *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Davies, John K, and Michael P. Kelly. 1993. *Healthy Cities: Research and Practice*. New York: Routledge.
- Davis, John Emmeus. 1991. *Contested Ground. Collective Action and the Urban Neighborhood*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Davis, Mike. 1990. *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*. New York: Vintage.
- de Coulanges, Fustel. 1873. *The Ancient City*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday Anchor.
- Dear, Michael J., and Jennifer R. Wolch.. 1987. *Landscapes of Despair. From Deinstitutionalization to Homelessness*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Dendrinos, Dimitrios S. 1992. *The Dynamics of Cities: Ecological Determinism, Dualism and Chaos*. New York: Routledge, 1992.
- Duncan, Otis D. 1960. *Metropolis and Region*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press@
- Freeman, Jonathan L. 1975. *Crowding and Behavior*. San Francisco: W.H. Freeman.
- Fuchs, Roland J. editor. 1994. *Mega-City Growth and the Future*. New York: United Nations University Press.
- Gans, Herbert. 1962. *The Urban Villagers*. New York: Free Press.
- Gilbert, Richard. 1996. *Making Cities Work. The Role of Local Authorities in the Urban Environment*. London: Earthscan, 1996.
- Glazer, Nathan and Daniel P. Moynihan. 1963. *Beyond the Melting Pot. The Negroes, Puerto Ricans, Jews, Italians, and Irish of New York City*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

- Goetz, Edward G. 1993. *Shelter Burden: Local Politics and Progressive Housing Policy*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Greenberg, Michael R. and Dona Schneider. 1996. *Environmentally Devastated Neighborhoods: Perceptions, Policies, and Realities*. New Brunswick, **NJ**: Rutgers University Press.
- Guillemin, Jeanne. 1975. *Urban Renegades: The Cultural Strategy of American Indians*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Hambleton, Robin, and Huw Thomas. 1995. *Urban Policy Evaluation: Challenge and Change*. London: Paul Chapman Publishing.
- Hannerz, Ulf. 1980. *Exploring the City.- Inquiries Toward An Urban Anthropology*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Hough, Michael. 1995. *Cities and Natural Process*. New York: Routledge
- Jinnai, Hidenobu. 1995. *Tokyo, A Spatial Anthropology*, translated by Kimiko Nishimura. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Karp, David A., Gregory P. Stone, and William Yoels. 1977. *Being Urban: A Social Psychological View of City Life*. Lexington, MA: Heath.
- Kenny, Michael and David I. Kertzer, editors. 1983. *Urban life in Mediterranean Europe: Anthropological Perspectives*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- King, Anthony D. 1990. *Urbanism, Colonialism, and the World Economy. Culture and Spatial Foundations of the Urban World System*. New York: Routledge.
- Kling, Joseph M. and Prudence S. Posner, eds. 1990. *Dilemmas of Activism: Class, Community and the Politics of Local Mobilization*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Leeds, Anthony. 1994. *Cities, Classes, and the Social Order*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- LeVine, Duane G., and Arthur C. Upton, editors. 1994. *The City As A Human Environment*. Westport, CT: Praeger.
- Liebow, Elliot 1967. *Tally's Corner.- A Study of Negro Streetcorner Men*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
- Liebow, Elliot. 1993. *Tell Them Who /Am: The Lives of Homeless Women*. New York: The Free Press.
- Light, Ivan H. 1978. *Ethnic Enterprise in America: Business and Welfare Among Chinese, Japanese, and Blacks*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Logan, John R., and Harvey L. Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Berkeley: The University of California Press.
- Main, Hamish, and Stephen Wyn Williams, editors. 1994. *Environment and Housing in Third World Cities*. New York: John Wiley.

- Marris, Peter. 1987. *Meaning and Action: Community Planning and Conceptions of Change* (2nd ed.). London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- McKee, David L. 1994. *Urban Environments In Emerging Economies*. Westport, CT: Praeger.
- Medoff, Peter, and Holly Sklar. 1994. *Streets of Hope: The Fall and Rise of an Urban Neighborhood*. Boston: South End Press.
- Miller, Donald L., editor. 1995. *The Lewis Mumford Reader*. Athens: University of Georgia Press.
- Mumford, Lewis. 1947. *City Development. Studies In Disintegration and Renewal*. London: Secker & Warburg.
- Mumford, Lewis. 1955. *Sticks and Stones: A Study of American Architecture and Civilization*. New York: Dover.
- Mumford, Lewis. 1961. *The City in History.- Its Origins, Its Transformations, and its Prospects*. New York, Harcourt, Brace & World.
- Mumford, Lewis. 1963. *The Highway and the City*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World.
- Mumford, Lewis. 1968. *The Urban Prospect*. New York, Harcourt, Brace & World
- Mumford, Lewis. 1970. *The Culture of Cities*. New York, Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.
- Pacione, Michael. 1990. *Urban Problems: An Applied Urban Analysis*. New York: Routledge.
- Piven, Frances Fox, and Richard Cloward. 1993. *Regulating the Poor. The Functions of Public Welfare*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Rogers, Alisdair, and Steven Vertovec, editors. 1995. *The Urban Context., Ethnicity, Social Networks, and Situational Analysis*. Washington, D.C.: Berg.
- Rotenberg, Robert, and Gary McDonogh, editors. 1993. *The Cultural Meaning of Urban Space* Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey.
- Rothblatt, Donald N., Daniel J. Gar, and Jo Sprague 1979. *The Suburban Environment and Women*. New York: Praeger.
- Sjoberg, G. 1960. *The Preindustrial City. Past and Present*. New York: Free Press.
- Smith, David. 1996. *Third World Cities in Global Perspective: The Political Economy of Uneven Urbanization*. Boulder: Westview.
- Smith, Neil. 1996. *The New Urban Frontier.- Gentrification and the Revanchist City*. New York: Routledge.
- Spengler, Oswald. 1928. *The Decline of the West*. Charles Francis Atkinson, trans. New York: Alfred Knopf.
- Spradley, James 1970. *You Owe Yourself A Drunk: An Ethnography of Urban Nomads*. Poston: Little, Brown.

- Squires, Gregory D. 1992. *From Redlining to Reinvestment: Community Responses to Urban Disinvestment*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Steinberger, Peter J. 1985. *Ideology and the Urban Crisis*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Stone, Michael E. 1993. *Shelter Poverty. New Ideas on Housing Affordability*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Stren, Richard, Rodney White, and Joseph Whitney, editors. 1992. *Sustainable Cities: Urbanization and the Environment in International Perspective*. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Sucher, David. 1995. *City Comforts: How To Build An Urban Village*. Seattle: City Comforts Press.
- Weber, Max. 1958. *The City*. Don Martindale and Gertrude Neuwirth, eds. & trans. New York: Free Press.
- White, Rodney R. 1994. *Urban Environmental Management: Environmental Change and Urban Design*. New York: Wiley.
- Whitehand, J. W. R. 1992. *The Making of the Urban Landscape*. Cambridge: Blackwell.
- Wright, Charles L. 1992. *Fast Wheels, Slow Traffic: Urban Transport Choices*. Philadelphia@, Temple University Press.
- Zorbaugh, Harvey. 1929. *The Gold Coast and the Slum*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.