Course Description
This course focuses on power relations at the local level. We will examine a landmark study of community power as well as case studies, topical studies, and journal articles focusing on issues of race, class, and ethnicity at the local level. The course will conclude with a reflection between community, individuality, and political empowerment.

Learning Objectives
1. To help students understand power at different levels of society and government.
3. To provide students with an opportunity to hone their analytical, research, writing, and oral presentation skills.

Required Readings
Journal Articles posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements
- **Two-page essay** summarizing and commenting on one of the three lectures on power, leadership, and community power and pluralism. This essay will be due on Tuesday, September 17. I will return it to you with comments on Tuesday, September 24. You will resubmit the original and revised versions on Thursday, September 26 in class. 10% of course grade.

- Late essays will not be accepted or heavily penalized at my discretion. All essays must be submitted in hard copy; electronic versions are not acceptable. If you do not resubmit you will fail the requirement. You can resubmit the draft with no revisions. But if you resubmit a revised version without the draft, your grading will be delayed and penalized. These provisions apply to all essays.
• From the bibliography of one of the required readings, choose one book and write a **5-page critique** of that book. A critique is a review and assessment of a given work, including a judgment of its positive and negative qualities, its strengths and weaknesses, the adequacy of its argument and methods, its findings and conclusions. This essay will be due on Thursday, October 3, in class, and I will return it to you with comments on Tuesday, October 15. You will resubmit the original and revised versions on Friday, October 18, before 2:00 pm, at the political science contact office in HU B16. The paper must be received and date-stamped by Mandi Moran or her replacement. Graded papers will be available to be picked up at the contact office in a timely fashion. 25% of course grade.

• From the bibliography of any of the required readings, choose three books, and, with my approval of your book selection, write a **10-page review essay**. Your book selection must be submitted in writing and along with your selection you must indicate the source. A review essay is a summary and evaluation of a set of works typically on the same subject (but this is not necessary for this class), including a judgment of its positive and negative qualities, its strengths and weaknesses, the adequacy of its argument and methods, its findings and conclusions. This essay will be due on Tuesday, November 12, in class, and I will return it to you with comments on Tuesday, November 19. You will resubmit the original and revised versions on Friday, November 22, before 2:00 pm, at the political science contact office in HU B16. The paper must be received and date-stamped by Mandi Moran or her replacement. The graded essays will be available to be picked up at the contact office in a timely fashion. 50% of course grade.

• **Three-page reflective essay**, due December 13, at 10:00 am in the political science contact office, HU B16. In this essay you will elaborate on your views about community politics, focusing on the concept of power. You must reference at least one of the books read in class. This essay is an opportunity to discuss and apply, critically, what you have learned this semester about community politics and power in general and/or in relationship to any of the analytical concepts we have explored (race, class, ethnicity). This essay is final upon submission; there will not be an opportunity to revise and resubmit. Graded essays will be available to you at the contact office in a timely fashion. 15% of course grade.

• Participation in class will be taken into account in the assignment of the course grade.

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<td>2-page essay</td>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
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<td>5-page critique</td>
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<td>10-page review essay</td>
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<td>3-page reflective essay</td>
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Grading

The course is graded A-E. The course grade will be tabulated according to the weights indicated above for each requirement. Letter grades will be converted into scores between 0-100 according to the scale noted below. As a matter of policy, letter grades will be converted to the top score in the range for each grade. For example, if you receive a grade of B+ on a given requirement, your score will be 89. Participation will be taken into account on the basis of points on a scale as follows: 5-excellent; 4-good; 3-average; 2-fair; 1-poor. Your participation score will be added to the course grade score.

There will be no opportunities for extra credit in this class but there will be ample opportunities for spirited and substantive class participation.

Statements or questions that reveal that a reading or readings have not been done or that do not measure up to standards of reason and civility are not only discouraged but will not be considered meaningful contributions.

Grading Scale

100-95 A
94-90 A-
89-85 B+
84-80 B
79-75 B-
74-71 C+
70-65 C
64-61 C-
60-55 D+
54-51 D
50-45 D-
44-0 E

Policies

This course is guided by the following general principle: the powers and stipulations not included in the syllabus are reserved to the instructor, who shall use reasonable discretion in the event of contingencies.

I reserve the right to modify the terms of this syllabus and to make changes as needed within reason. To the extent that it is possible, any changes made during the course of the semester will be cost-neutral. Students will be given reasonable notice of any changes and every effort will be made to accommodate special needs and circumstances so that there is no negative impact on the ability of students to meet all their academic obligations.

Students are encouraged to provide feedback on the proceedings of the course at any point
in time, including suggestions for additional readings and/or activities that enhance the pedagogical process.

Other than to store and make available class readings, I will use Blackboard sparingly. There will be no posting of lecture notes on Blackboard. Students must come to class, be attentive, take notes, and raise questions if in need of clarification or to present a differing interpretation.

I will alert students to especially significant facts and statements through emphasis and repetition but the burden of proof is on the student to understand the main points, facts, arguments, issues, debates, and interpretations.

If you miss a class, do not ask me to tell you whether “you missed anything important.” Come see me during office hours and we can have a conversation about the material that was covered in the class you missed but make sure you have read the material before coming to see me. This is not an online course. Therefore, I will not discuss class material by e-mail.

All mobile and/or electronic devices should be off during class.

Regarding academic integrity, the undergraduate bulletin states: “It is every student’s responsibility to become familiar with the standards of academic integrity at the University. Claims of ignorance, of unintentional error, or of academic or personal pressures are not sufficient reasons for violations of academic integrity.” If you have any questions regarding standards of academic integrity and the consequences following violation of those standards please seek clarification by meeting with me during office hours or by special appointment.

The undergraduate bulletin indicates: “students will not be excused from a class or an examination or completion of an assignment by the stated deadline except for emergencies, required appointments or other comparable situations. Students who miss a class period, a final or other examination, or other obligations for a course (fieldwork, required attendance at a concert, etc.) must notify the instructor or the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education of the reason for their absence and must do so in a timely fashion.”

Undergraduate academic regulations are fully disclosed and available at http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html

I follow the University's Medical Excuse Policy, which is available at http://www.albany.edu/health_center/medicalexcuse.shtml

**Office Hours**
Tuesdays 1-2pm, HU B16 and 4:30-5:30pm, Milne 219; Thursdays, 11:30-12:30 pm, HU B16. Also by appointment. Contact information: jcruz@albany.edu. I will be available by e-
mail only M-F from 9am-5pm. E-mails sent after 5pm will not be answered before the next business day and e-mails sent after 5pm on Fridays will not be answered before the following Monday. I reserve the right to determine what is appropriate to discuss and/or handle via e-mail. You must use your UAlbany e-mail account.

**Reading and Discussion Schedule**

**August**
- 27 - Introduction
- 29 - Lecture on power

**September**
- 3 - Lecture on leadership
- 10 - Lecture on community power and pluralism
- 12 - Recapitulation of lectures
- 17 - Hunter, Chs. 1-3
- 19 - Hunter, Chs. 4-6
- 24 – Hunter, Chs. 7-9
- 26 - Jonas, "Corporate Takeover and the Politics of Community."

**October**
- 1 - Sanchez, Chs. 1-3
- 3 - Sanchez, Chs. 4-5
- 8 - Sanchez, Chs. 6-7
- 10 - Sanchez Chs. 8-9
- 15 - Sanchez, Chs. 10-12
- 17 - Sanchez-Korrol, Chs. 1-3
- 22 - Sanchez-Korrol, Chs. 4-5
- 24 - Sanchez-Korrol, Chs. 6-7
- 29 DeFillipis, Introduction, Chs. 1-2
- 31 Defillipis, Chs 3-4

**November**
- 5 - DeFilippis, Chs 5-6; Krinsky and Reese, "Forging and Sustaining Labor-Community Coalitions."
- 7 - Clark and Teachout, Chs. 1-3
- 12 - Clark and Teachout, Chs. 4-5
- 14 - Clark and Teachout , Chs. 6-8
- 19 - Clark and Teachout, Chs. 9-10
- 21 - Clark and Teachout, Chs. 11-12; Herbert, "The Trapdoor of Community."
- 26 - Tuan, "Community, Society and the Individual."

**December**
- 3 - Bauman, Chs. 1-3
- 5 - Bauman, Chs. 4-6
- 10 – Bauman, Chs. 7-9
13 - Due Date for Reflective Essay, HU B16, 10:00am.