Description
This course examines the historical development and contemporary problems of urban governments in the United States. We will focus on the context of urban policymaking, urban-suburban relations, the relationship between public and private power, the role and impact of race, ethnicity, class, and the fiscal crisis.

Learning Objectives
The goals of the course are to enable students to understand how urban government developed in the United States, to learn about specific features of urban governance, and to evaluate the workings of urban government through an examination of specific issues. Generally, the course seeks to enable students in the acquisition of knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups.

Required Readings
- Managing Urban America: “Urban Political Structure,” and “Urban Policymaking,” online in BLS.

Course Requirements
- Seven, short, objective exams (85% of course grade) throughout the semester, graded A-E. The lowest grade exam will be dropped. Only one exam will be dropped.
- Attendance (15% of course grade) will be graded according to the following scale: 100-90% - A; 89-80% - B; 79-70% - C; 69-60% - D; 59-0% - E

Policies
Concerning standards of academic integrity, freedom of expression, and attendance and timely completion of course requirements please refer to: http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html
Concerning medical excuses please refer to: http://www.albany.edu/health_center/HealthInfo/Medical%20Excuse%20Policy.doc

Office Hours
Tuesdays 10-11am and 1:30-2:30pm, HU-B16. If you are unable to meet during scheduled office hours, we can meet at a mutually convenient day and time by appointment. Contact information: conga@albany.edu. To contact me by e-mail you must use webmail. If you e-mail me using Blackboard I cannot guarantee a timely reply.
Course Schedule

August
31 – Introduction

September
2 – The Urban Situation After 9/11
7 – Evolution of Cities and Suburbs
14 – Who has the power?
16 – Exam 1; Online chapter, "Urban Political Structure"
21 – Online chapter, “Urban policymaking"
23 - Suburban politics
28 – Exam 2; Bureaucracy and service delivery
30 – Citizen participation

October
5 - Gender Politics
7 – Exam 3; Metro Government and regional cooperation
12 – Urban Issues, Domestic poverty
14 – Urban Issues, immigration debate
19 – No Class – Prof. Cruz @ policy conference
21 – Exam 4; Urban Issues, Changing U.S. electorate
26 - Urban Issues, Fixing urban schools
28 - Urban Issues, Racial diversity in public schools

November
2 – Exam 5; Urban Issues, Fighting crime
4 - Urban Issues, Aging infrastructure
9 - Urban Issues, Mass transit boom
11 – Exam 6; Urban Issues, Downtown renaissance
16 - Urban Issues, Property rights
18 - Mayors and Money, 1 and 2
23 - Mayors and Money, 3
30 - Mayors and Money, 6

December
2 - Mayors and Money, 7
7 – Exam 7

Please note that, as indicated in the University’s Undergraduate Bulletin: “Each instructor retains the right to modify the syllabus and give notice in class of any modifications in a timely fashion. Students are responsible to apprise themselves of such notices.”