Course Description
This course focuses on power relations at the local level. During the first part of the course we will examine three classical political theory texts to glean insights about power, decision-making, and political leadership. We will use these insights as the theoretical context for our critique of contemporary community politics. During the second part of the course we will examine a landmark study of community power as well as a series of case studies focusing on issues of race, class, ethnicity, and gender at the local level. The course will conclude with a reflection on the relationship between community, individuality, and political empowerment.

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

Required Readings (in the order in which we will review them. Titles in **boldface** are available online on Blackboard [BLS])

*Beginning*
Aristotle, *The Politics*
Clarence Stone, “**Power and social complexity,**” BLS.
Machiavelli, *The Prince*
Clarence Stone, "**Political Leadership in Urban Politics,**" BLS.
Rousseau, *Social Contract*
Robert Waste, “**Community power and pluralist theory,**” BLS.

*Middle*
Floyd Hunter, *Community Power Structure*
Jennifer Frost, *An Interracial Movement of the Poor*
Katherine Cramer Walsh, *Talking About Race, Community Dialogues and the Politics of Difference*
Arlene Dávila, *Barrio Dreams, Puerto Ricans, Latinos, and the Neoliberal City*
Sylvie Murray, *The Progressive Housewife, Community Activism in Suburban Queens, 1945-1965*
Course Requirements
Class participation. This includes a presentation of your research at the end of the semester. 20%; weekly reaction papers, 2-3 pages, typed, double spaced, due in class, 40%; research paper or literature review, 15-20 pages, not including bibliography, 40%. Students registered in POS 524R do not have to write a research paper. In this case, class participation will be 20% of the grade and reaction papers will be 80%.

Office Hours
Tuesdays 10-11am and 1:30-2:30 pm HU B16; Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 pm Milne 219. Also by appointment. Contact information: conga@albany.edu.

Reading and Discussion Schedule
September 2 - Introduction
September 16 - Aristotle, The Politics - Book III, ix-xiii; Book VI, I-v; Clarence Stone, “Power and social complexity.”
September 23 - Machiavelli, The Prince - ix, x, xv-xix, xxi-xxiii, xxv; Clarence Stone, "Political Leadership in Urban Politics."
September 30 - Rousseau, Social Contract - Book II, 1-4, 7-10; Book III, 4-7, 9-15; Robert Waste, “Community power and pluralist theory.”
October 7 - Floyd Hunter, Community Power Structure
October 14 – Jennifer Frost, An Interracial Movement of the Poor
October 21 - Katherine Cramer Walsh, Talking About Race, Community Dialogues and the Politics of Difference
November 4 - Arlene Dávila, Barrio Dreams, Puerto Ricans, Latinos, and the Neoliberal City
November 11 - Sylvie Murray, The Progressive Housewife, Community Activism in Suburban Queens, 1945-1965
November 18 - Milton Kotler, Neighborhood Government, The Local Foundations of Political Life; Zygmunt Bauman, Community, Seeking Safety in an Insecure World
December 2 – Seminar Presentations, early bird submission of papers.
December 9 – Seminar papers due.