

COVERING NEW YORK CITY GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Spring 2013

Thursday afternoons: 2pm-4:50pm

Prof. Sarah Bartlett

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Office hours: My schedule is unpredictable, but I am generally at the school at least four days a week; the easiest thing is to email me for an appointment.

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Office hours: Thursdays 11am until 2pm, usually in Prof. Bartlett's office

INTRODUCTION:

"There are eight million stories in the Naked City," intoned the narrator of the 1948 classic movie. Many involve politics and government and you'll be telling some of them. The goal of the course is to give you a thorough understanding of New York City politics and government – the players, the stakes, the strategies, the rules, the opportunities and constraints – with a focus on how power is wielded and policy is made. With elections in the fall of City Council members, the mayor, and other local officials, this semester's course will delve heavily into local political campaigns.

You will learn how to report on elected officials and candidates for elected office, the vast New York City bureaucracy, and unofficial but key actors such as lobbyists, labor unions, advocacy groups and community organizations. We'll look at New York City politics from the ground up and the top down. In addition to the fall elections, the course will cover the budget process, legislation, land use and zoning. It is intended to introduce journalists to the incredibly rich menu of New York City stories and the techniques to ferret out and report them.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Have a thorough understanding of New York City politics and government – the players, the stakes, the strategies, the rules, the opportunities and constraints – with a focus on how power is wielded and policy is made.
2. Know how to report on elected officials, the vast New York City bureaucracy, and unofficial but key actors such as lobbyists, labor unions, advocacy groups and community organizations.
3. Know how to take both a top-down and a bottom-up approach to political stories
4. Understand the basics of city government – the budget process, legislation, land use and zoning
5. Appreciate the incredibly rich menu of New York City stories and the techniques to ferret out and report them.
6. Have a solid familiarity with online resources, including databases on lobbyists, city contracts, and campaign contributions

REQUIRED READING/VIEWING:

Please note: Succeeding in this course depends on careful reading of the materials – there is a lot of ground to cover and much of it is factual. Students will be expected to glean the big idea or central thesis of each piece that is assigned; professors will frequently provide questions to guide this critical reading.

NOTE: Before the first class, all students will be expected to have viewed “New York: A Documentary Film,” Episode 7, by Ken Burns - on reserve in the library

The only required text is “What Makes New York City Run,” by Adrienne Kivelson of the League of Women Voters for NYC. (Because it is not available in bookstores, we have purchased the book for you - please bring \$8.00 to class.)

All additional required reading noted in “Course Outline” will be provided by the instructors, located on the Web, or placed on reserve. Since this course is drawn heavily from the news, we will be making adjustments to this reading list every week.

Note: The e-reserve password is ur2013.

In addition to assigned materials, students **must review daily**

“City and State First Read” – subscribe at: <http://www.cityandstateny.com/first-read/>

Highly recommended but not required:

N.Y./Region section and City Room blog of New York Times: www.nytimes.com

“Eye Opener” email of Gotham Gazette – subscribe at:

www.gothamgazette.com/subscribe.shtml

NY1’s daily email, “Political ItCH” – subscribe at www.ny1.com/ny1/NewsBeats/itch.jsp

Prof. Errol Louis’ nightly show on NY1 “Inside City Hall” - broadcast/streamed

Prof. Doug Muzzio’s weekly show on CUNY-TV, “City Talk” – www.cuny.tv

Daily Politics (Daily News): www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dailypolitics/

Politicker (NY Observer): www.politickerny.com/

Two other CUNY-TV shows: Brian Lehrer Live and Eldridge & Company - www.cuny.tv

ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to in-class assignments and taking turns managing the urban blog, students will be asked to produce the following during the semester:

1. A news story tied to a City Council meeting, either a committee hearing or a stated (full Council) meeting **due March 14th by 11:59pm**
2. A story tied to a race for City Council, borough president or public advocate. This piece should incorporate some profile material, data, as well as analysis, **due April 18th by 11:59pm**
3. An interactive graphic that illuminates some aspect of the debate over the city budget **due April 25th by 11:59pm**
4. A story about a land use, zoning or planning issue that incorporates political analysis, **due May 16th by 11:59pm**

Pitches are required for assignments #2 and 4; Source lists are required on assignments # 1, 2 and 4.

Note: Stories can be produced in any media format – radio, TV, web package, or print. However, we seek variety, so all three cannot be produced in the same format. We encourage you to approach each assignment with a creative eye – take advantage of the new digital tools you have learned in other classes to explore fresh ways of delivering information to your audience.

RULES

Deadlines are critical. **Note:** All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the date the assignment is due. All work turned in after that will receive a reduced grade (unless, prior to the due date, there are mitigating circumstances that convince us to grant you an extension).

Class attendance is mandatory and unexcused absences will be reflected in your final grade. Job interviews, work obligations, computer problems, routine medical appointments, meetings with advisers, transportation issues, and even scheduled source interviews are not valid reasons for missing class. Only a severe personal illness or family emergencies are valid reasons – and you’ll need to provide a written excuse and documentation for those to be considered.

Professionalism is an attribute we emphasize and monitor – it accounts for 10% of your grade, along with class participation! So there is no confusion, here are some of the things we care about:

Please be on time. If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you will be marked absent. Please don’t take phone calls during class or use them for texting purposes – it’s disruptive and distracting.

Since the temptation to use email, IM, Facebook is so great, please don’t plan on using your laptops in class unless you are instructed to do so; we will distribute our notes at the beginning of class to facilitate note-taking.

Plagiarism is a serious offense; all work in this class must be your own. Using other people’s work, video, audio, music, text or ideas without attribution, or fabricating information, quotes or sources, will result in an F for the assignment, potential dismissal from the course, and disciplinary action from the school, depending on the severity of the infraction. The school’s policy on this is spelled out on page 38 of the student handbook.

If you are still unsure whether you are about to cross over to the dark side, **PLEASE COME SEE US**. We want you to succeed, and academic dishonesty is the worst kind of failure.

GRADING

Your final grade will be calculated on the following basis:

News quizzes, in-class exercises and budget graphic – 15%

Class participation/professionalism – 10%

City Council news story – 15%

Political race story – 25%

Land use/zoning story – 15%

Final test – 10%

How we interpret our letter grades:

- A Publishable quality, with minor edits or questions
- A- Nearly publishable, with just a few minor issues
- B+ Better than just good...w/ more work, could possibly be published
- B Good, solid work with several minor issues or a single major problem
- B- Decent work with several bigger issues
- C+ Gaping holes in reporting and severe issues with the story
- C Poor
- F You know what that means

COURSE OUTLINE

Class 1/Jan. 31 WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE LIVE, WHAT WORK WE DO

Topics:

Introductions
Course content, conduct
Demographic, social, economic profiles
Projecting the future
Political geography

Readings:

NYC population 2010

www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/pdf/census/census2010/pgrhc.pdf

NYC population projections (scan)

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/census/2000_2030_popproj.shtml

“Population Growth in New York City is Outpacing 2010 Census, 2011 Estimates Show,” by Sam Roberts, NYT, April 5, 2012:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/05/nyregion/census-estimates-for-2011-show-population-growth-in-new-york.html>

“City’s Hispanic Makeup Shifts as Dominicans Leave and Mexicans Arrive,” by Sam Roberts, NYT, May 10, 2012 - <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/05/10/citys-hispanic-makeup-shifts-as-dominicans-leave-and-south-americans-arrive/?ref=samroberts>

“Income data shows widening gap between New York City’s Richest and Poorest,” by Sam Roberts, NYT, Sept. 20, 2012 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/20/nyregion/rich-got-richer-and-poor-poorer-in-nyc-2011-data-shows.html>

“From Morrisania to Williamsburg: How the City Has Changed in 40 Years,” by Sam Roberts, NYT, June 4, 2012 (Please make sure to review accompanying interactive graphic) -

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/04/nyregion/how-new-york-city-has-changed-since-the-1940-census.html?ref=samroberts>

Almanac of New York, pp. 12-17 (handout)

Assignment: READ!!

Class 2/Feb. 7 THE SYSTEM

Topics:

NYC's governmental structure
Brief political history of New York
NYC political game: players, stakes, strategies, rules, playing fields,
Who governs NYC?
State of the City
Political tectonics
City-State relations
"Who Ya Gonna Call? Where Ya Gonna Search"

Readings:

Kivelson, pp. 13-25
NYC Charter – Read Table of Contents and skim the rest –
www.nyc.gov/html/charter/downloads/pdf/citycharter2009.pdf
Mayor's State of the City address, if it's been given
"Gov. Andy Cuomo looks like he's running New York City, as well as New York State,"
Kenneth Lovett, NY Daily News Jan. 6, 2012
<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/gov-andy-cuomo-running-york-city-york-state-article-1.1001601>
"Putting the 'Public' in Public Meetings," by Rachael Fauss, Gotham Gazette, Apr. 19, 2011,
www.gothamgazette.com/article/governing/20110419/17/3512
"Coalition Spends Millions Pushing Cuomo's Agenda," by Thomas Kaplan, NYT, Jan. 18,
2012
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/19/nyregion/cuomo-gets-help-promoting-agenda-from-business-leaders.html?scp=1&sq=coalition%20spends%20millions%20pushing%20cuomo%27s%20agenda&st=cse>
"How Albany sold out New York City: Gov. Cuomo's new budget is a bust," by Michael Bloomberg, NY Daily News, Mar. 30, 2011 – <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/mayor-bloomberg-albany-sold-new-york-city-gov-cuomo-new-budget-bust-article-1.124254>

NOTE: WE WILL SUPPLEMENT CLASS 2 WITH A CITY HALL REPORTERS PANEL, FROM 6-7:30PM ON FEB. 21 IN ROOM 308

Assignment: READ!!

NOTE: NO CLASS ON FEB. 14TH – HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Class 3/Feb. 21 HIZZONER, DA MAYOR

Topics:

Mayor in NYC political system
Brief history of Koch, Dinkins, Giuliani, Bloomberg
More detailed review of Bloomberg's three terms

Readings:

Kivelson, pp. 27-31

“The Mayors, Take 4,” by Erik Enquist, Crains New York, June 28, 2010 -
<http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20100627/ANNIVERSARY/100629915>

“The Untouchable,” by Ben McGrath, The New Yorker, Aug. 24, 2009
http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/08/24/090824fa_fact_mcgrath

“Those Third-Term Blues,” by Michael Powell, NYT, Oct. 16, 2011
www.nytimes.com/2011/10/16/nyregion/mayor-bloomberg-and-those-third-term-blues.html?scp=1&sq=Those%20Third-Term%20Blues&st=cse

“The Service is Public, but the Money Isn’t,” by Jane C. Timm, Gotham Gazette, Sept. 13, 2011
www.gothamgazette.com/article/searchlight/20110919/203/3605

“Bloomy’s \$hadow City Government,” by Candice M. Giove and Giner Adams Otis, NY Post, May 15, 2011
www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/bloomy_hadow_city_government_zoPIvz1OGhfu63HvsZXMdI

“Bloomberg’s One Percent Solution,” Chris Smith, New York Magazine,” Nov. 18, 2011.
<http://nymag.com/news/politics/citypolitic/occupy-wall-street-bloomberg-2011-11/>

“Taking Stock of Mayor Bloomberg,” by Daniel Massey, Crains New York, Apr. 8, 2012 -
<http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20120408/ECONOMY/304089999>
 Almanac of New York City, pp. 337-338; 346-365 (to be handed out in class)

Assignment: READ!!

Class 4/Feb. 28 LESS THAN A RUBBER STAMP?

Topics:

City Council in NYC political system; 1989 Charter change
 How a bill becomes law
 How the Council conducts business
 The role of the Speaker
 Lulus

Reading:

Kivelson, pp. 37-41 and p. 83
 “About The City Council: Legislative Process”
<http://council.nyc.gov/html/about/legislative.shtml>

“The foursaken,” by Kyle Smith, NY Post, Jan. 29, 2012 -
http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the_foursaken_pttMOgapfL5ZisEagJE1cM

“Council Lulu Watch,” by Citizens Union -
<http://www.citizensunion.org/resources/city-affairs/council-lulu-watch>

“Newest City Council Member is Learning on the run,” by Javier C. Hernandez, NYT, Mar. 13, 2012 -
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/13/nyregion/13wills.html?pagewanted=all>

“Dirty little secrets: City Council members have skirted laws, bent rules and abused their power,” by Erin Einhorn, Robert Gearty, Benjamin Lesser, Tina Moore Barbara Ross and Greg B. Smith, NY Daily News, Mar. 20, 2011 -
<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/dirty-secrets-city-council-members-skirted-laws-bent-rules-abused-power-article-1.122011>

“Council’s pork bill at \$147m” by Sally Goldenberg, NY Post, June 28, 2012 -
http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/council_pork_bill_at_cZkl11loBO8NIGImPSMLM

“Council’s Politics Taint Discretionary Funding,” by Jonathan Camhi, Gotham Gazette, May 7, 2012 – <http://old.gothamgazette.com/article//20120507/999/3715>

What the Next City Council Will Likely Look Like,” by Andy Beveridge, Gotham Gazette, Nov. 19, 2012 –

<http://www.gothamgazette.com/index.php/topics/demographics/2131-what-the-next-city-council-will-likely-look-like-demographical>

“Challenging Quinn a Risk for NYC Council Members,” by Kristen Meriwether, Epoch Times, Jan. 24, 2013 - <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/united-states/challenging-quinn-a-risk-for-nyc-council-members-339962.html>

Muzzio – Charter Revision Paper (to be distributed)

Assignment: Plan your visit to a City Council hearing or meeting, do advance reporting

Class 5/ Mar. 7 CLASS VISIT TO CITY HALL

Speakers (invited): Christine Quinn, Gary Altman, Jamie McShane

Assignment: Complete City Council news story, due March 14th

Class 6/Mar. 14 THE OTHER GUYS

Topics:

Comptroller

Public Advocate

Borough Presidents

Party officials

Unofficial power brokers

Readings:

“Clinton West Winger Bill de Blasio Runs Midlife Crisis Council Race,” by Josh Benson, NY Observer, April 16, 2011 - <http://observer.com/2011/04/clinton-west-winger-bill-de-blasio-runs-midlifecrisis-council-race/>

“Hello, Operator,” by Colin Campbell, NY Observer, Dec. 10, 2012 –

<http://observer.com/index.php?s=hello%2C+operator&x=0&y=0>

“Unlucky 800,” by Mark Jacobson, NY magazine, March 12-19, 2012 -

<http://nymag.com/news/features/john-liu-2012-3/>

“Discretionary Spending,” by Chris Bragg, City & State, Dec. 15, 2010 -

<http://www.cityandstateny.com/discretionary-spending/>

Review “New York City Power 100” – by City & State, Dec. 5, 2012 -

<http://www.cityandstateny.com/new-york-city-power-100/>

Muzzio, Public Advocate and Borough Presidents, NYC Charter Revision Commission, August 2010.

Assignment: Begin working on pitch for story on political candidate/race

Class 7/ Mar. 21 GETTING ELECTED: NUTS AND BOLTS

Topics:

How campaigns work

Election Law

Redistricting
Political parties
Campaign finance law
In-class exercise: NYC campaign database

Readings:

Bartlett notes – to be distributed
Muzzio, League of Women Voters – to be distributed
NYC Campaign Finance Board - read FAQs: www.nycffb.info/press/info/faq.aspx
NYPIRG reports on campaign finance expenditures in state
www.nypirg.org/goodgov/default.html
“Mayoral Backers Raising Bundles,” by Shane Dixon Kavanagh, Crains, Jan. 23, 2012
<http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20120122/POLITICS/301229972/1032>
“Now, City Party Bosses Do Little Moving or Shaking,” by Sam Roberts, NYT, May 24, 2010 -
www.nytimes.com/2010/05/24/nyregion/24bosses.html?scp=1&sq=now,%20city%20party%20bosses%20do%20little%20moving%20or%20shaking&st=cse
“Likely Successor to Disgraced Brooklyn Party Leader Is a Friend and Protégé,” by Liz Robbins, NYT, Sept. 2, 2012 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/03/nyregion/seddio-is-protége-and-likely-successor-of-lopez-as-brooklyn-leader.html?pagewanted=all>
“Battling the Boss in Brooklyn,” by Kamelia Kilawan, Gotham Gazette, Aug. 14, 2012 –
<http://www.gothamgazette.com/index.php/city/1433-battling-the-boss-in-brooklyn>
“Disgraced Brooklyn Assemblyman Vito Lopez amassed power and loyalty through appointments and cheap housing,” by Benjamin Lesser and Greg B. Smith, NY Daily News, Sept. 16, 2012 - <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/disgraced-brooklyn-assemblyman-vito-lopez-amassed-power-loyalty-appointments-cheap-housing-article-1.1160656>
“The Campaign Finance Loophole Developers Love,” by Beth Morrissey, New York World, Aug. 7, 2012 -
<http://www.thenewyorkworld.com/2012/08/07/the-campaign-finance-loophole-developers-love/>
“Unpacking Campaign Bundlers,” by Beth Morrissey, New York World, Aug. 9, 2012 -
<http://www.thenewyorkworld.com/2012/08/09/unpacking-campaign-bundlers/>
“Super PACs eyed for mayoral election,” by Daniel Massey, Crains NY, May 14, 2012 -
<http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20120513/POLITICS/305139969>
“New York City Board of
<http://www.gothamgazette.com/index.php/component/content/article/52-open-government/4142-what-is-going-on-with-city-council-redistricting-a-primer>
Elections: Unlucky or Incompetent?” by Nick Powell, Nov. 19, 2012 -
<http://www.cityandstateny.com/new-york-city-board-of-elections-unlucky-or-incompetent/>
“What is Going On With City Council Redistricting? A Primer,” by Ross Barkan, Gotham Gazette, Jan. 6, 2013 -
“Districts Blur Ethnic Lines,” by Andrew Grossman, WSJ, April 8, 2012 -
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303815404577331953228497914.html>
“City’s Proposed Council Map is Called Unfair to Minority Groups,” by David W. Chen, NYT, Oct. 3, 2012 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/03/nyregion/new-york-city-redistricting-map-is-called-unfair.html>
“City Council Prepares for Redistricting,” by Stephen Reader, WNYC, September 5, 2012 -
<http://www.wnyc.org/blogs/wnyc-news-blog/2012/sep/05/map-city-council-prepares-redistricting/>

NYC Districting and You, interactive maps produced by CUNY's Center for Urban Research - <http://www.urbanresearchmaps.org/citycouncildistricts/map.html>
Resource: Report on voter turnout in NYC – Who Votes? June 2012 produced by Campaign Finance Board. PDF available on at www.cfbny.org

Assignment: All pitches for political race story should be submitted/approved by now.

NOTE: NO CLASS ON MARCH 28TH

Class 8/ APRIL 4 THE RACES

Topics:

Who is running for what?

Which races are going to be newsworthy?

Readings:

“Not Mike,” by Chris Smith, New York magazine, Oct. 30, 2011 -

<http://nymag.com/news/politics/mayoral-election-2011-11/>

“Who Wants To Be Mayor?” by Morgan Pehme, City & State, Jan. 28, 2013 -

<http://www.cityandstateny.com/who-wants-to-be-mayor/>

“Candidates are Lining up for Top Posts on '13 Ballot,” by David W. Chen, NYT, Nov. 29,

2012 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/29/nyregion/races-for-top-offices-on-new-yorks-ballot-in-2013-take-shape.html>

“Strategist Sounds Off on Mayor’s Race,” NY1 interview with Democratic strategist Bruce Gyory, Dec. 13, 2012 -

http://www.ny1.com/content/politics/inside_city_hall/173949/ny1-online--strategist-sounds-off-on-mayor-s-race

“Mayoral Race with a Rarity: No Top Hopeful Who is Jewish,” by Sam Roberts, NYT, Nov. 25, 2012 -

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/26/nyregion/with-no-major-jewish-candidate-an-unusual-absence-in-the-nyc-mayors-race.html?ref=samroberts>

“Storm Writes a New Script in Campaigns for New York Mayor,” by Michael M. Grynbaum,

NYT, Dec. 5, 2012 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/06/nyregion/hurricane-sandy-alters-mayoral-campaign-in-nyc.html>

“Mayor’s race rests on three key questions,” by Greg David, Crains New York, Nov. 26, 2012

- <http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20121125/OPINION/311259985>

“Searching for El Primero: Latinos and the Mayoralty,” Special Investigation by City Limits,

Nov./Dec. 2012 – please read package of six stories by Ed Morales, plus accompanying multimedia features: <http://www.citylimits.org/topics/382/searching-for-el-primero-latinos-the-mayoralty#.UN9I63BvO3U>

“The Mayoral Money Game,” by Beth Morrissey, New York World, Jan. 24, 2013 -

<http://www.thenewyorkworld.com/2013/01/24/mayoral-money-game/>

“New Candidates Seeking to Make History Set to Fight Over Eight Open Brooklyn City

Council Seats” by Reuven Blau, Daily News, Jan. 20, 2013 -

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/new-crop-political-candidates-afer-city-council-seat-article-1.1242242>

“How the 2013 Democrats have spent, and how much room they have left,” by Azi Paybarah, Capital New York, Jan. 16, 2013 -

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/politics/2013/01/7201377/how-2013-democrats-have-spent-and-how-much-room-they-have-left>

Quinn

“Mayor Presumptive,” by Rebecca Mead, New Yorker, April 2, 2012 -

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2012/04/02/120402fa_fact_mead

“New Speaker Had Help From Some Powerful Friends,” by Winnie Hu, NYT, Jan. 6, 2006 -

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/06/nyregion/06bosses.html>

“Union That Backed Bloomberg in 2009 Endorses Quinn for 2013,” by Azi Paybarah, Capital New York, Dec. 13, 2012 -

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/politics/2012/12/6858654/union-backed-bloomberg-2009-endorses-quinn-2013?city-bucket-headline>

“Madam Would-Be Mayor,” by Jonathan Van Meter, New York magazine, Jan. 27, 2013 -

<http://nymag.com/news/features/christine-quinn-2013-2/>

de Blasio

“Public Advocate Fires Campaign Shots,” by Michael Saul Howard, WSJ, Oct. 4, 2012 -

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444223104578037031727865630.html?KEYWORDS=michael+saul+howard>

“De Blasio, Announcing Mayoral Bid, Pledges to Help People City Hall Forgot,” by David W.

Chen, NYT, Jan. 27, 2013 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/28/nyregion/bill-de-blasio-kicks-off-campaign-for-mayor.html>

Thompson

“Politicians, Union Leaders Lend Thompson Support, Not Endorsements,” by Michael Saul

Howard, WSJ, Dec. 6, 2012 - <http://blogs.wsj.com/metropolis/2012/12/06/politicians-union-leaders-lend-thompson-support-not-endorsement/?KEYWORDS=michael+saul+howard>

Stringer

“Comptroller Rivals Clear Way for Stringer,” by Michael Saul Howard, WSJ, Dec. 4, 2012 -

<http://blogs.wsj.com/metropolis/2012/12/04/comptroller-rivals-clear-way-for-stringer/>

John Liu

“What John Liu Said, and What his Campaign Would Look Like,” by Azi Paybarah, Capital New York, Dec. 20, 2012

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/politics/2012/12/6935173/what-john-liu-said-and-what-his-mayoral-campaign-would-look?top-featured-1>

(compare coverage of Liu speech in New York World, City Limits, WSJ, etc.)

“John Liu’s Big Speech,” by Kamelia Kliawan, Gotham Gazette, Dec. 21, 2012 -

<http://www.gothamgazette.com/index.php/component/content/article/52-open-government/4139-john-lius-big-speech>

“City Comptroller Lays Out Fiscal Proposals for 2013,” Interview with Errol Louis, Inside City Hall, NY1, Dec. 20, 2012 -

http://www.ny1.com/content/politics/inside_city_hall/174370/ny1-online--city-comptroller-lays-out-fiscal-proposals-for-2013

“Two Campaign Aides Are Going on Trial, But City Comptroller May Face Judgment,” by Benjamin Weiser, David W. Chen and William K. Rashbaum, NYT, Jan. 31, 2013 -

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/31/nyregion/aides-go-on-trial-but-comptroller-john-c-liu-faces-judgment.html?ref=nyregion&_r=0

Lhota

“A Republican Mayoral Possibility Unsettles Democrats,” by Michael Powell, NYT, Dec. 24, 2012 - http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/25/nyregion/joseph-lhotas-mayoral-chances-ruffle-ny-democrats.html?_r=0

“Experts Divided on Lhota’s Potential Candidacy for Mayor,” by Nick Powell, City & State, Dec. 26, 2012 - <http://www.cityandstateny.com/lhotas-potential-candidacy-raises-many-questions/>

“Giuliani Ready to Use Muscle to Put His Man in Mayor’s Seat,” by Michael Barbarao, NYT, Dec. 31, 2012 - http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/01/nyregion/for-giuliani-a-chance-to-put-new-stamp-on-city.html?hp&_r=0

Adolfo Carrion

“Carrion: New York Ready for Latino Mayor,” by Michael Howard Saul, WSJ, Jan. 4, 2013 - <http://blogs.wsj.com/metropolis/2013/01/04/carrion-new-york-ready-for-latino-mayor/?KEYWORDS=carrion%3A+new+york+ready+for+latino+mayor>

“White House Tenure Tricky for Carrion,” by Michael Howard Saul and Laura Meckler, WSJ, Jan. 4, 2013 - <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323374504578219990744341234.html?KEYWORDS=white+house+tricky+for+carrion>

Speaker race

“Uptown Smackdown,” by David Freedlander, NY Observer, Jan. 3, 2012
www.politickerny.com/2012/01/03/uptown-smackdown-inez-dickens-and-melissa-mark-viverito-vie-to-become-next-city-council-speaker/

“Speech Class,” by Chris Bragg, City & State, April 2, 2012 - <http://www.cityandstateny.com/speech-class/>

Resources

WNYC mayoral blog - <http://project.wnyc.org/elections/mayor-tracker/>

Assignment: Work on analytical story on campaign/race

Class 9/ Apr. 11 POLITICS FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Topics:

Grassroots politics, community activism

The growing importance of immigrant groups

Reading:

Sharma, “Numbers Growing, South Asians Take New Approach to Political Organizing, City Hall News, Jan. 15, 2009 -

<http://www.cityhallnews.com/newyork/article-542-numbers-growing-south-asians-take-new-approach-to-political-organizing.html>

Wilkinson, "The Patron," New Yorker, Nov. 26, 2007 (Lexis-Nexis)

www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/11/26/071126fa_fact_wilkinson

"Kingmaker of Little Russia," by Michael Powell, NYT, March 11, 2012 –

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/11/nyregion/gregory-davidzon-a-kingmaker-of-brooklyns-little-russia.html?pagewanted=all>

"Among City's Soviet Immigrants, an Affinity for Republicans," by Joseph Berger, NYT, May 9, 2012 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/09/nyregion/among-russian-immigrants-in-new-york-affinity-for-republicans.html?pagewanted=all>

Guest Speaker: TBA

Assignment: Complete candidate/race story, due April 18

Class 10/ Apr. 18 FOLLOWING THE MONEY

Topics:

Budgets: operating and capital, revenue and expense

NYC budget timetable

Preliminary budget

Responses/reactions to 2013 preliminary budget

Major risks/areas of controversy

City/state fiscal issues

In-class: budget exercise

Readings:

Review Kivelson, pp. 49-64

NYC budget process -

www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/IBORoadmap.pdf

Understanding New York City's Budget: A Guide

<http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/understandingthebudget.pdf>

A Guide to the Capital Budget

www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/IBOCBG.pdf

"Budget Options for New York City," IBO annual report to be released in February, 2012 -

<http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/>

"Bloomberg and the Budget: A Story in 3 Parts," by Glenn Pasanen, Gotham Gazette, Oct. 21,

2009 - www.gothamgazette.com/article/finance/20091021/8/3061

IBO on debt service: [New York City Annual Debt Service Expense](#)

January 11, 2012, IBO

IBO on total debt: [New York City Debt Outstanding](#)

January 11, 2012, IBO

"City Unions Waiting Out Mayor's Term," by Michael Saul Howard, WSJ, Nov. 12, 2012 -

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324439804578113091166283364.html?KEYWORDS=michael+saul+howard>

"Salaries for Local Government Employees: How Does NYC Measure Up?" IBO report -

<http://ibo.nyc.ny.us/cgi-park2/?p=295>

"Plan Funded at 11th Hour," by Michael Howard Saul, WSJ, Aug. 11, 2011 –

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904006104576500741843570906.html>

“New York City’s Budget: Why the Latest PEG Is Not Likely to Be the Last,” – analysis by Citizens Budget Commission, Dec. 6, 2012 – <http://www.cbcny.org/cbc-blogs/blogs/new-york-city%E2%80%99s-budget-why-latest-peg-not-likely-be-last>

“From Superstorms to Labor Settlements: Despite Modest Budget Gap Projections, Significant Challenges Remain,” IBO analysis, Dec. 27, 2012 - <http://ibo.nyc.ny.us/>
Resource: Citizens Budget Commission Budget Navigator tool - <http://www.cbcny.org/summary>

Assignment: Create interactive graphic on a city budget issue, due April 25th

Class 11/Apr. 25 THE BUREAUCRACY: WHO’S SUPPOSED TO DO WHAT/ HOW THEY’RE DOING?

Topics:

The NYC bureaucracies

Mayoral and non-mayoral agencies

Agency performance

Lies, damn lies, statistics

Boards, commissions

Public authorities

In-class exercise: Using PMMR and other data sources

Readings:

Kivelson, pp. 85-105

Preliminary Mayor’s Management Report (excerpts)

www.nyc.gov/operations

Review NYC Comptroller’s audits -

<http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov/bureaus/audit/yearlyview.asp>

“At Strike’s Root, Runaway Costs in Busing Pupils,” by Al Baker, NYT, Jan. 17, 2013 -

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/17/nyregion/new-york-school-bus-drivers-go-on-strike.html?pagewanted=all& r=0>

“Police Tactic: Keeping Crime Reports Off the Books,” by Al Baker and Joseph Goldstein, NYT, Dec. 30, 2011 –

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/31/nyregion/nypd-leaves-offenses-unrecorded-to-keep-crime-rates-down.html?scp=1&sq=police%20tactics:%20keeping%20crime%20reports%20off%20the%20books&st=cse>

“What’s Eating the NYPD?” by Chris Smith, New York magazine, April 8, 2012 -

<http://nymag.com/news/features/nypd-2012-4/>

“After 11 Years, a Police Leader Hits Turbulence,” by N.R. Kleinfeld, Al Baker and Joseph Goldstein, NYT, Feb. 3, 2012 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/04/nyregion/ramond-w-kelly-nypd-commissioner-runs-into-turbulence.html?pagewanted=all>

“For Mayor, Waste Mars Another Digital Project,” by David M. Halbfinger, NYT, Sept. 24, 2011 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/24/nyregion/bloombergs-computer-project-for-personnel-data-leads-to-waste.html?pagewanted=all& r=0>

“At last, report bares Bloomberg’s \$2 billion 911 debacle, NY Daily News editorial, May 5, 2012 - <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/report-bares-bloomberg-2-billion-911-debacle-article-1.1072870>

"The Mayors of New York," by Laura Kusisto, NY Observer, Apr. 11, 2011
www.observer.com/2011/real-estate/bids-mayors-new-york
"Push for Sunshine on Policymaking Boards," by Michael Howard Saul, WSJ, July 12, 2012 -
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303740704577523273868982732.html>
"Sunlight on Panel Members," by Michael Howard Saul, WSJ, Nov. 27, 2012 -
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323830404578145792480450894.html?KEYWORDS=push+for+sunshine+on+policymaking+boards>
"New York's Public Authorities by the Numbers," Office of the State Comptroller, Aug. 2010
- PDF can be found in the Reports section but good to skim entire section of website:
<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/pubauth/index.htm>

Assignment: Identify subject of land use story, pitch due May 2nd

Class 12/MAY 2 WHAT GETS BUILT? WHY? HOW? BY WHOM?

Topics:

Land Use/Zoning
ULURP

Reading:

Review Kivelson, pp. 67-77
Background on ULURP, Dept. of City Planning -
<http://nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/luproc/ulpro.shtml>
Robert Caro, "The City-Shaper," New Yorker, Jan 5, 1998.
www.newyorker.com/archive/1998/01/05/1998_01_05_038_TNY_LIBRY_000014646
"Five Boroughs. One City. No Plan," by Jarrett Murphy, City Limits, January, 2011 (available on e-reserve)
"Why Gotham's Developers Don't Develop," by William J. Stern, City Journal, Autumn, 2000
- http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_4_why_gothams.html
"Reshaping the City: Who's Being Heard - and Why?" by Courtney Gross, Gotham Gazette, Aug. 25, 2008 - <http://old.gothamgazette.com/article/iotw/20080825/200/2619>
"Charting a Better Way for Planning and Community Boards," by Tom Angotti, Gotham Gazette, July 6, 2010 -
<http://www.gothamgazette.com/index.php/topics/development/555-charting-a-better-way-for-planning-and-community-boards>
"Amanda Burden Wants to Remake New York. She Has 19 Months Left," by Julie Satow, NYT, May 20, 2012 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/20/nyregion/amanda-burden-planning-commissioner-is-remaking-new-york-city.html?pagewanted=all>
"The Real Power in City Planning," by Tom Angotti, Gotham Gazette, Oct. 4, 2010 -
<http://old.gothamgazette.com/article/landuse/20101004/12/3377>

Assignment: Work on land use story

Class 13/May 9 LAND USE CASE STUDY: THE RE-IMAGINING OF MIDTOWN EAST

Readings:

"Bloomberg Pushes a Plan to Let Midtown Soar," by Charles V. Bagli, NYT, Oct. 6, 2012 -
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/07/nyregion/mayor-bloomberg-pushes-a-plan-to-let-midtown-soar.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

"Big Midtown Rezoning Eyed," by Eliot Brown, Jan. 14, 2012 - <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204409004577159273028027142.html>
"Rezoning Plan Will Revitalize Midtown East," by Robert D. Yaro, in Crains New York Business, Oct. 28, 2012 - <http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20121028/OPINION/310289981>
"Midtown holds key to city's future," by Greg David, Crains New York Business, Jan. 27, 2013: <http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20130127/ECONOMY/301279986>
"Last Air Rights," by Daniel Geiger, Crains New York Business, Nov. 25, 2012 - City Planning's East Midtown Study - http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20121125/REAL_ESTATE/311259966
http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/east_midtown/index.shtml
"Midtown East Plan Puts Garodnick on Hot Seat," by Greg David, Crains New York Business, Jan. 28, 2013 - <http://mycrains.crainsnewyork.com/blogs/greg-david-on-ny/2013/01/midtown-east-plan-puts-garodnick-on-hot-seat/>
WiredNY thread - <http://wirednewyork.com/forum/showthread.php?t=30395>
Midtown Zoning Plan May Imperil Historic Buildings," by David W. Dunlap, Dec. 6, 2012 - <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/06/midtown-zoning-plan-may-imperil-historical-buildings/>

Guest speaker: Land use consultant Brenda Levin and...

Assignment: Finish land use story, due May 16

Class 14/May 16 POLITICAL CORRUPTION

Topics:

Conflicts of interest
Corruption and how to report on it
Courts as fertile reporting ground
Ethics and the lack thereof
Who pays?
In-class exercise: Investigating city contracts

Readings:

"Growth of a New-Age Political Machine," by Martin Gottlieb, NYT, Feb. 7, 1993 - www.nytimes.com/1993/02/07/nyregion/growth-of-a-new-age-political-machine.html?pagewanted=print&src=pm
Department of Investigation report on Ridgewood- Bushwick - Click on link to footnote #7 on wikipedia page - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridgewood_Bushwick_Senior_Citizens_Council
"From Brooklyn Office, Mixing Clout and Charity," by Liz Robbins and Alison Leigh Cowan, NYT, Oct. 25, 2011 www.nytimes.com/2011/10/25/nyregion/for-brooklyn-leader-marty-markowitz-mix-of-business-charity-and-power.html?scp=1&sq=From%20Brooklyn%20Office,%20Mixing%20clout%20and%20Charity,%E2%80%9D%20&st=cse
Indictment of William Boyland Jr. <http://www.scribd.com/doc/76339507/Boyland-Hermon-Indictment>

“U.S. Charges Bronx Councilman with Fraud,” by Ray Rivera and William K. Rashbaum, NYT, Feb. 20, 2010 -

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/10/nyregion/10seabrook.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=u.s.%20charges%20bronx%20councilman%20with%20fraud&st=cse

Conflicts of Interest Board website

www.nyc.gov/html/conflicts/html/home/home.shtml

SeeThroughNY: government payrolls, contracts, expenditures - www.seethroughny.net

“A Developer Between Legal Clouds,” by Michael Powell, NYT, Jan. 9, 2012 -

[www.nytimes.com/2012/01/10/nyregion/in-corruption-scandals-recurring-ties-to-a-developer-forest-city-](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/10/nyregion/in-corruption-scandals-recurring-ties-to-a-developer-forest-city-ratner.html?scp=1&sq=A%20Developer%20Between%20Legal%20Clouds&st=cse)

[ratner.html?scp=1&sq=A%20Developer%20Between%20Legal%20Clouds&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/10/nyregion/in-corruption-scandals-recurring-ties-to-a-developer-forest-city-ratner.html?scp=1&sq=A%20Developer%20Between%20Legal%20Clouds&st=cse)

“Corruption: The Politicians Accused of Wrongdoing in 2012,” by City & State, Dec. 17, 2012

- <http://www.cityandstateny.com/corruption-the-politicians-accused-of-wrongdoing-in-2012/>

“Bronx Councilman Is Convicted of Fraud and Loses Seat,” NYT July 26, 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/27/nyregion/councilman-seabrook-of-nyc-convicted-in-corruption-case.html>

“Ex-Lawmaker Gets 5 Years in Corruption,” NYT Jan. 8, 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/09/nyregion/seabrook-sentenced-to-5-years-for-corruption.html>

Assignment: Study for final test

Class 15/May 23: FINAL TEST; WRAP UP

Final test

End of semester celebration