

21st CENTURY AMERICAN CITIES

OLLI at Vanderbilt

Spring Term 2018
Vanderbilt University
Class Location: Commons Center

Bill Purcell
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Class Time: Wednesday 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

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BOOK: Suggested Reading (Not Required)
Glaeser, Edward. *Triumph of the City*. New York,
Penguin Group, 2011.

Additional Reading and Movies Attached

CLASS SCHEDULE: Lecture: 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Questions and Discussion: 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

**Session 1. POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY: All Politics is Local, Really Local
(March 28, 2018)**

Why Cities and Mayors are Important Again: After half a century of decline American cities are again at the center of policy and political life. We will discuss why Speaker Tip O'Neill's description of our political system is more true today than ever.

**Session 2. EDUCATION: Mayoral and Community Leadership
(April 4, 2018)**

Education is the most important thing a city does. Mayors increasingly understand that the success of their city is dependent on the success of their education system. So, what is a community to do, and what must the schools do?

Guest: Dr. Shawn Joseph
Director, Metro Nashville Public Schools

**Session 3. PUBLIC SAFETY: Crime
(April 11, 2018)**

If a city is not safe people will not come and certainly not stay. After a decade of reductions in crime nationwide, national crime statistics are now in flux. Why is this happening and what are the implications for our cities – the frontline of homeland security?

**Session 4. QUALITY OF LIFE: What does it mean and why is it important?
(April 18, 2018)**

New York is the Big Apple, Chicago the Windy City, Nashville is The Music City. What does the quality of life in the place mean to citizens and make the world want to join them there? Why do people come and why will they stay?

**Session 5. GOVERNING AND MANAGING THE CITY
(April 25, 2018)**

The role of the Mayor in setting the agenda and getting it done. With a large workforce and larger budgets, cities are complex enterprises with increasingly broad reach. We will discuss the work of the people who manage our cities, with special attention to the employment and career opportunities.

Session 6. THE FUTURE OF CITIES
(May 2, 2018)

The relationship of cities with state and federal governments and the respective responsibilities for the people who live there. We will recap the duties and obligations of local governments and what is required if they are to remain central to policy and public life in the decades ahead.

ADDITIONAL READING

1. A Prayer for the City – Buzz Bissinger

Bissinger, H. G. *A Prayer for the City*. New York: Random House, 1997. Print.

2. The Last Hurrah – Edwin O'Connor

Connor, Edwin. *The Last Hurrah*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1956. Print.

3. The Power Broker – Robert A. Caro

Caro, Robert A. *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*. New York: Knopf, 1974. Print.

4. Roscoe – William Kennedy

Kennedy, William. *Roscoe*. New York: Viking, 2002. Print.

5. A Man in Full – Tom Wolfe

Wolfe, Tom. *A Man in Full: A Novel*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. Print.

6. The American Mayor: The Best and the Worst of Big City Leaders – Melvin G. Holli

Holli, Melvin G. *The American Mayor: The Best & the Worst Big-city Leaders*. University Park, Pa.: Pennsylvania State UP, 1999. Print.

7. The Secrets of the Hopewell Box – James D. Squires

Squires, James D. *The Secrets of the Hopewell Box Stolen Elections, Southern Politics, and a City's Coming of Age*. Nashville: Vanderbilt UP, 2012. Print.

MOVIES

1. American Gangster – 2007

American Gangster. Dir. Ridley Scott. Prod. Ridley Scott and Brian Grazer. By Steven Zaillian. Perf. Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, and Chiwetel Ejiofor. Universal Pictures, 2007.

2. Blade Runner – 1982

Blade Runner. Dir. Ridley Scott. Prod. Ridley Scott and Hampton Francher. By Hampton Francher and David Webb Peoples. Perf. Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, and Sean Young. Warner Bros., 1982.

3. City Hall – 1996

City Hall. Dir. Harold Becker. By Ken Lipper and Paul Schrader. Perf. Al Pacino and John Cusack. Castle Rock and Columbia Pictures, 1996.

4. Chinatown – 1974

Chinatown. Dir. Roman Polanski. By Robert Towne. Perf. Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway. Paramount, 1974.

5. The French Connection – 1971

The French Connection. Dir. William Friedkin. Screenplay by Ernest Tidyman. By Robin Moore. Perf. Gene Hackman and Roy Scheider. Twentieth Century-Fox Video, 1971.

6. Gangs of New York – 2002

Gangs of New York. Dir. Martin Scorsese. By Jay Cocks. Perf. Leonardo DiCaprio, Cameron Diaz and Daniel Day-Lewis. Twentieth Century Fox, 2003.

7. Guys and Dolls – 1955

Guys and Dolls. Dir. Joseph L. Mankiewicz. By Joe Swerling and Abe Burrows. Perf. Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons and Frank Sinatra. The Samiel Goldwyn Company, 1955.

8. L.A. Confidential – 1997

L.A. Confidential. Dir. Curtis Hanson. By James Elroy. Screenplay by Brian Helgeland. Perf. Kevin Spacey and Russell Crowe. Warner Bros. Entertainment, 1998

9. Milk – 2008

Milk. By Dustin L. Black. Dir. Gus Van Sant. Perf. Sean Penn, Josh Brolin and Emilie Hirsch. Focus Features, 2008.

10. Miller's Crossing – 1990

Miller's Crossing. Dir. Joel Coen. By Joel Coen and Ethan Coen. Perf. Gabriel Byrne, Albert Finney, and Marcia Gay Harden. Twentieth Century Fox, 1990.

11. Nashville – 1975

Nashville. Dir. Robert Altman. By Joan Twekesbury. Perf. Keith Carradine. ABC Entertainment and Paramount Pictures, 1975.

12. On the Waterfront – 1954

On the Waterfront. Dir. Elia Kazan. Prod. Sam Spiegel. By Budd Schulberg, Leonard Bernstein, Gene Milford, and Boris Kaufman. Perf. Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, Lee J. Cobb, Rod Steiger, and Eva Marie Saint. Columbia Pictures, 1954.

13. Serpico – 1973

Serpico. Dir. Sidney Lumet. By Peter Maas. Screenplay by Waldo Salt. Perf. Al Pacino and John Randolph. Paramount Pictures Release, 1973.

14. West Side Story – 1961

West Side Story. Dir. Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise. Screenplay by Ernest Lehman. By Arthur Laurents. Perf. Natalie Woods and George Charkiris. Mirisch Corporation, 1961.

15. The Lemon Drop Kid - 1951

The Lemon Drop Kid. Dir. Sidney Lanfield and Frank Tashlin. By Damon Runyon and Edmund Beloin. Screenplay by Frank Tashlin, Robert O'Brien, Edmund Hartmann, Irving Elinson. Perf. Bob Hope, Marilyn Maxwell, Lloyd Nolan. Paramount Pictures Release, 1951.