Shit I don’t know

Shit I know

Shit I kinda know

**From Class Notes**

* **Public policy**
  + An intentional course of action followed by a government institution or official for solving an issue of public concern
* **Urban policy**
  + Draws on economic, political and sociological theory to yield insights about improving the well-being of groups living in urban areas
* **Three key issues of urban policy**
  + Economic development
  + Social development
  + Geographical issues
* **Three modes pertaining to urban policy**
  + Area Based
    - Often concentrated on deprived areas within cities
  + Partnership
    - Working, drawing together a range of agencies
  + Community work
    - Including community education and social development and political organization
* **Federalism**
  + A way of organizing a nation so that two levels of government have formal authority over the same land and people
  + Central gov shares some power with states
    - E.g the right to tax
    - Some powers are reserved for the state gov
* **Dillion’s rule**
  + Gives sub governments the power to create even smaller governments
    - Ex letting cities makes its own laws within a state
      * As long as the powers are not in violation of the federal and state laws
* **Phases of Federalism and Inter-governmental relations**
  + Dual federalism (1787-1932)
    - Power divided between federal and state
    - Basically separate
      * One did its thing, the other did its thing
  + Cooperative federalism (1933-1963)
    - Federal and state work together
      * Still independent
  + Centralized federalism (1964-1980)
    - More power given to federal government
      * Tries to take away power from state government
    - Federal gov more involved in telling what the states to do
      * Ex national standards
  + New federalism (1981-1992)
    - States getting more power
      * Raegan era
  + Empathetic federalism (1993-2000)
    - Federal gov getting even bigger
    - Carrot on a stick to get states to do shit
      * Ex giving funding to states if the state does X
  + Pragmatic federalism (2001-2008)
    - Federal government only being involved where it REALLY needs to be
    - States still have power
      * Some areas where states really need to be involved
    - Less of the incentives
  + Empathetic federalism revisited (2008-2016)
    - Bigger carrot and bigger stick
* **Units of government**
  + Counties
    - Administrative arm of the state
    - Provide essential services required statewide for all the people
    - Traditionally responsible for property tax assessment and collection and deed recording
  + Municipalities
    - Larger than counties
    - Political unites incorporated for local self-government
    - Provide public services for a specific concentration of population in a defined area
    - The services provided most frequently are-
      * Public safety and corrections
      * Environmental protection
      * Education
      * Social services
      * Transportation
      * Housing
  + Townships
    - Functions as local governments for residents of areas without regard to population concentration
    - Most townships are rural, and they have limited responsibilities
  + School districts
    - Provide public education and have enough administrative and fiscal autonomy to qualify as a separate government
    - Most school districts exclusively make policy for and manage their public schools
  + Special districts
    - Organized local entities authorized by state or local law to provide only one or a limited number of designated services
    - Many are chartered as government corporations
    - Some are multipurpose districts
    - Nearly half get their income from user fees
* **Forms of local government**
  + Council Manager
    - Oversees the general administration, makes policy, sets budget
      * Has most of executive power
    - Appoints a professional city manager to carry out day to day operations
    - The mayor is chosen from among the council on a rotating basis
      * More of a figure-head in this form
        + Doesn’t have executive power
  + Mayor-Council
    - Mayor is elected separately from the council with significant administrative and budgetary authority
    - Mayor could have weak or strong powers
    - Council is elected and maintains legislative powers
    - Some cities appoint a professional manager who maintains limited administrative authority (usually with a weak mayor system)
  + Commissioner
    - Voters elect individual commissioners to a small governing board
    - Each commissioner is responsible for one specific aspect, such as fire, police. Public works, health and finance
    - One commissioner is designated as chairman or mayor, who presides over meetings
    - Commissioner has both legislative and executive powers
  + Town meeting/Manager
    - All voters meet to decide basic policy
    - Have a paid city manager or elect officials to carry out those policies
    - Usually for smaller towns, so everyone can participate
* **Structural constraints on urban government**
  + Limited authority
  + Fragmentation
    - Who has responsibility to address this issue?
  + Capital mobility
    - Ability of government to get resources/fund to do what it needs to do
    - Need good bond rating
  + Economic and demographic issues
    - Location of the city itself
      * E.g, who tf comes to DE?
* **Informal power structure in urban areas**
  + Business leaders
  + Formally organized interest groups
    - HOA
  + Government officials
  + Local gov employees
  + Unorganized voting blocks
  + Urban social movements
* **Tools local governments use to achieve urban policy objectives**
  + Direct provisions of services or goods
  + Intergovernmental grants
    - Categorical grants
      * Given as a broad category
        + E.g transportation
    - Project grants
      * Ear marked for a project
        + E.g, within transportation there might be a project to improve roads and highways
    - Block grant
      * Used for a specific purpose
        + Money from grant can’t be used for anything else
  + The tax system
  + Laws
  + Loans and loan guarantees
    - A loan guarantee is like having a cosigner
      * Guarantees loan is paid back
  + Contracting out
    - E.g, at an event, the city gives a contract to a private security team
      * As opposed to have local police do it
* **Who sets the urban agenda**
  + Elite perspective
    - Only a small number of people decide policy
      * Power is concentrated in the hands of an economic elite
        + These elite are usually upper class
    - Elites want to keep the economic and social systems
      * Feed off voter apathy so they can do whatever they want
  + Pluralist perspective
    - Power centers exist in the community and compete democratically
    - Power centers are powerful only within a function area
    - Power exists only when specific individuals exercise it through specific decisions
    - Individuals can influence public policy by choosing among competing elites in elections
    - Not a direct democracy, but can have influence by joining groups
      * E.g Future farmers of America Association

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Pluralist** | **Elitist** |
| Locus of political power | Individual action and competence | In positions of economic and institutional leadership |
| Scope of influence | Highly Specialize | Covert Integration |
| Structure of power | Divided among competing power centers | Pyramid like form |
| Nature of power | Power is not cumulative. Power in one area doesn’t mean power in another area | Power is cumulative. The opposite of pluralist. |
| Most common approach to identifying power holders | Decision making analysis | Reputational analysis |
| Role of business community | Only one of many competing power centers | Dominant interest in community |
| Number of power holders | Potentially many | Few |
| Visibility | Overt- We know who they are | Covert integration- don’t really know who they are |
| Beliefs on issues | Competitive | Consensual |

* **Contexts of urban policy**
  + Social context
  + Economic context
  + Political context
    - Governing context
      * Administrative offices that make decisions about implementation
  + Cultural context

**From Previous Exam:**

* **Urban politics concerned with the study of urban politics?**
* **What urban politics involve**
* **The rationale for the study of urban politics**
* **Major issues in urban politics**
* **Types of influential actors in urban growth and change** 
  + **Property Capitalists**
    - Specializes in shaping property and reselling it
      * Real estate developers
      * Speculators
  + **Local Government Officials**
    - Passing regulations, offering incentives or erecting barriers to it
    - Gov agencies attempt to channel certain land use into certain areas
      * Does this through planning and zoning regulations
  + **Corporations**
    - They decide where to locate, increase or decrease their operations
      * Several factors are considered while planning where to open an office/plant
        + Abundance of labor
        + Wages
        + Location of suppliers
        + Location of markets
        + Access to technology

**From the Book:**

* **Why cities are where they are?**
  + Geography and Climate
  + Usually located near important trade centers
    - Houston
      * Located in East Texas Oil Fields
      * Cheap shipping to Gulf of Mexico
      * “Energy capital of the world”
    - Miami
      * Tourism
      * Retirement hub
      * Hella Cubans selling shit
    - Salt Lake City
      * Mormons founded SLC b/c it was remote, so they can practice freely
    - Vancouver
      * Originally a lumber-based economy
      * Now the countries largest and most diversified port
        + Now the gateway of goods being imported and exported in Asia
      * Also, a tourist destination
      * Dynamic economy
    - D.C
      * Choice for this city was a political one
      * Didn’t want to choose between NYC and Philly as capital
      * Represents link between north and south
      * Was once the Potomac River Basin (Water again@!)
* **Urban political economy**
  + New model of cities
  + Some assumptions were made
    - A city exists within a larger political structure
      * Country, state etc…
    - International politics can affect local life
      * + E.g oil prices
    - Local economies do not operate independently but, rather, connect to one another and forge state, national, and international economic networks
    - Social scientists dismiss the notion that “natural processes” shape the physical form and social life of cities.
      * believe that political and economic institutions— including banks, governments, and international corporations—shape urban life.
  + Key focus is on who gets to allocate the cities funds?
* **Redefining the study of cities**
  + Lefebvre applied the economic categories of capital, labor, profit, wages, class exploitation, and inequality to explain the unevenness of urban development.
    - Took some ideas from Marx
  + Two circuits of investment capital
    - Investing in manufacturing
      * Investors invest in a manufacturing business
      * Make money from investing
      * Invest in more businesses
    - Investing in land
      * Buy land
        + Hold onto that land to sell later
        + OR develop it for commercial purposes
  + New theories about the space around us
    - The space around us is closely linked to behavior
      * People organize their daily lives and actions—whether cultural, eco- nomic, educational, or social—within the constraints or opportunities of the built environment.
      * Architects are our daily planners in a way…
    - Government shapes the space around us
      * Eminent domain, approving new roads, distributing taxes, owning land
    - Two types of space
      * Abstract Space
        + What business people, investors, and government have in mind when they discuss the dimensions of size, location, and profit.
      * Social Space
        + What individuals who live, work, and play in an area think about their environment.
* **Evolution of global economy**
  + Deindustrialization
    - In the 1970’s manufacturing plants started to outsource in Asia/Latin America
      * Fucked the economy up
  + Restructuring
    - Had to move economies away from manufacturing
      * Cities developed into finance, specialized service firms
  + Countries with more developed economies have transnational corporations that dominate the global economy
  + 2nd world countries have close ties with the previous group
    - Workers usually have a lower quality of life
    - Lower middle class
  + 3rd world countries
    - Usually rural workers, living in slums/shanty towns
  + The global economy usually favors 1st world countries
    - E.g Nike sweat shops in Asia
  + Cities form an important role in linking the necessary components for an economy
    - Instant communication, fast transport, currency swapping etc
  + The nested city model holds that cities are lodged within national, regional, and global systems.
    - A city exists within its own local historical context, but functions within a distinctive national culture and social structure.
    - Even though cities may have the same goal, they approach them differently
* **The social environment**
  + Unwritten code of conduct for pedestrians
    - Which side of the road you walk on, speed you walk at etc
  + Which side of the road do you use in which country?
  + We judge people by what they’re wearing and the location they’re at
    - West side vs East side
  + Dress code has relaxed much
    - We don’t judge people AS harshly as we used to when it comes to clothing
    - Back then, only wealthy people could afford decent clothes
      * Most people have decent clothes now (thanks mass production!)
* **Urban networks**
  + Residents in high poverty areas form networks to survive
    - Extended kin networks
      * Emotional support, monetary support, sense of belonging
    - Strong ties in neighborhoods
      * Privatizing a public space
        + E.g street for playing kickball
    - Friendships form strong ties for those who move a lot
      * Social media allows them to stay in touch
    - Scenes are where people go to hang out
      * Techno scene, “make the scene”
    - Other networks
      * Singles clubs, call in radio talk show, dating agencies
* **Social movements and city life**
  + Started go resist social change
  + Starts grass roots movements of like-minded people
    - Protesting shit, Arab spring 2011
* **Suburban life**
  + Backyard is the main entertainment
  + Newer suburbs have McMansions
  + Few landmarks
  + Everyone has a car

**Possible Essay Questions:**

1) Write an essay discussing the rise of suburbanization, the decline of the central city

and the growth in urban areas and the implications for development of metropolitan

areas.

* Mass suburbanization started after WWII
* Whites started moving into the suburbs with their GI bill
* During the great migration, blacks started moving into northern cities
* Whites began to desert the downtown areas to move into the suburbs
  + Started process of gentrification
  + Took industry jobs with them
    - Stores, bus systems all went broke
  + Blacks and poor whites were the ones that stayed
    - Racial tensions grew
* Implications for development of metropolitan areas
  + E.g Portland Oregon
    - Law signed in 1973 to limit sprawl
      * Banned development outside certain areas
        + To keep people in the city and save the jobs

2) Write an essay on the shape of cities and urban ecology as discussed in class and

the text

* **Original cities were radio-centric** 
  + Important for defense
  + Places people near the center
* **Most North American cities are gridiron cities**
  + Started after the industrial revolution
  + Laid out in a grid pattern
  + Straight streets and hella right angles
    - Focused on the movement of people and products throughout a city
    - Also, a good way to divide land
    - Merchants also prefer these straight roads
      * Their customers can go from one stand to another
* **Concentric zone theory**
  + Comprised of 5 zones
    - Zone 1
      * Central business districts
    - Zone 2
      * Zone in transition
    - Zone 3
      * Zone of the working man
    - Zone 4
      * Better residences
    - Zone 5
      * Commuter zones
        + Suburbs and upper-class workers
* **Hoyt’s Sector (model) Theory**
  + According to this model, cities grew around several important transport facilities
    - Railroads
    - Sea port
    - Public transportation
  + Sectors were produced within a capitalist market and that causes real estate to translate into the functional needs of business and determined land prices
  + Argued that cities grew in wedge-shaped areas
    - Like chunks in a pie
* **Multiple-Nuclei Theory**
  + Theory formed on the idea that cities don’t grow from a single nucleus, but serval separate nuclei
  + Formed based on the idea that people have greater movement due to increased car ownership

3) Write an essay discussing four principles of critical urban theory.

* A city’s form and growth result not from natural processes, but from decisions made by people and organizations that control wealth and other key resources
  + Cities benefit or get fucked from decisions made by financial and business organizations
    - E.g a business deciding if it will stay in a city or not
      * Depends on tax rate and other such things
* Urban forms and urban social arrangements reflect conflicts over the distribution of resources
  + Ongoing struggle between bourgeois and the proletariat
* Government continues to play an important role in urban life
  + Also decide zoning laws, tax incentives and spending priorities
    - These shape people’s lives
      * Directly from spending programs
      * Indirectly from rules governing investors
* Urban growth patterns significantly result from, economic restructuring
  + E.g globalization changed North American cities
    - Went from manufacturing heavy to service heavy
    - Corporations wipe out medium sized businesses