

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4127: CITY POLITICS

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:25 to 2:05 p.m.

Journalism Building Room 270

Spring 2015

Professor Vladimir Kogan

Office: Derby Hall 2004

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., and by appointment

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Top Hat Course URL: tophat.com/e/912299

Top Hat Course Code: 912299

SMS Response Number: +1 (315) 636-0905

Course Description:

In this course, students will watch HBO's series "The Wire" and complete readings that engage key themes of the show. In particular, we will focus on: (1) the major problems facing urban communities in the 21st Century; (2) the economic, social, and political forces that have historically shaped — and continue to influence — their development; (3) the role of government in addressing urban problems; and (4) the major participants and stakeholders in city politics. We will use "The Wire" as an analytical lens through which to understand the most important political developments in American cities.

!!WARNING!!

"The Wire" is an adult show that addresses a number of topics students may find uncomfortable. Episodes may include scenes that depict extreme violence, nudity and sex, racist and profane language, drug use, and other content that may disturb and unnerve you. If you are easily offended, I strongly encourage you to consider taking a different course.

!!WARNING!!

Goals:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have learned about:

1. The institutional, political, social, and economic context that shapes city politics and policy.
2. Challenges confronting major U.S. cities and urban areas in the 21st century, and the causes of these challenges.
3. The role of government policy as both a cause of, and a potential solution to, these challenges.

4. The political dynamics and coalition-building strategies necessary to effectuate city-wide policy change.

Required Materials:

1. *All required readings are posted on Carmen*

2. *You are responsible for acquiring all five seasons of "The Wire"*

You can stream the show for free if you have an Amazon Prime or HBO subscription, or know someone else who does. You can also buy the box set through websites such as Amazon.com, although that it would probably be cheaper to simply buy an Amazon Prime subscription with a student discount. I encourage students to collaborate on getting access to the show.

3. *Students are required to purchase a Top Hat license (\$20 to \$38, depending on type)*

Top Hat is a mobile audience response system has been adopted campus-wide at OSU starting this year. We will use it extensively throughout the course for both the daily quizzes and class participation. You can access the system via the URL on the front page of the syllabus or use an app on your iOS or Android device. At minimum, you will need a phone capable of sending SMS text messages, but to take advantage of the full functionality of the system, I strongly encourage those who do not have a laptop or tablet they can bring to class to purchase one. An inexpensive Android tablet can be found online for \$50 or less. A limited number of iPads are available for checkout for free at the library.

You can purchase your Top Hat license directly on the company's website (tophat.com), or from the OSU bookstore if you are using financial aid. A one-semester license, which can be used for all of the courses this semester, costs \$20, while a five-year license costs \$38.

Additional information about using the Top Hat system and purchasing your license are posted on Carmen.

Assignments:

1. **Class Participation (25% of Overall Grade)**

Students can earn participation points by using Top Hat on their mobile devices to respond to questions incorporated into the course lecture and by taking part in class discussions. The bulk of the participation points will be earned through Top Hat. To receive full points in this category, students should expect to also speak in class and participate in class discussions once a week.

Points for Top Hat participation will be tracked automatically and can be viewed on the gradebook Top Hat course website. Points for taking part in class discussions will be posted on Carmen after each class. Extra credit will be available to students who participate regularly (more than once a week) in class discussions.

2. **Daily Quizzes (25% of Overall Grade)**

Students are required to complete the required readings and watch the assigned episodes of the show *prior* to the start of class. In the beginning of each lecture, students will use

Top Hat to complete a short multiple-choice quiz testing basic comprehension and recall of major facts from the readings and episodes assigned for that day (i.e., there will be no trick questions). Please note that if you only read HBO's plot summaries online, you will not do well on the quizzes. Episodes assigned for days featuring guest speakers or when no class is in session will be included on the quiz given at the beginning of the subsequent class. *Quizzes missed due to absences cannot be made up, but the lowest four quiz scores will be dropped prior to the calculation of the final grades.*

3. Midterm (25% of Overall Grade)

The midterm will consist of two parts. Two take-home questions will be distributed on Thursday, Feb. 19 and are due at the beginning of class on Thursday, Feb. 26. On Feb. 26, students will also complete an in-class multiple-choice exam. Students will have previously seen at least half of the multiple choice questions during the daily quizzes. I will also use the Top Hat "tournament" feature to allow you to review and study *all of the reading- and class-based questions* prior to the exam. The tournament will become available approximately one week prior to the midterm.

4. Final Exam (25% of Overall Grade)

The final exam will have the same format as the midterm. Two take-home questions will be distributed on Thursday, April 23. They are due at the beginning of the assigned final exam time on Thursday, April 30, when students will complete the multiple-choice portion of the exam. Once again, at least half of the questions will come from the daily quizzes, and most of the remaining questions will be available for review using the Top Hat tournament.

*****A copy of all take-home exam questions must be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on Carmen. The upload feature on Carmen sometimes does not work on Google Chrome, so I encourage you to install a backup browser (Firefox, Internet Explorer, Safari, etc.) ahead of time just in case. Assignments will be considered late and a penalty will be assessed unless they are uploaded by the beginning of the class when they are due. No printed hard copies will be accepted in lieu of online submissions. *****

Academic Integrity:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. *Instructors are obligated* to report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Students are required to upload their written exams to Carmen, which utilizes Turnitin.com for plagiarism detection. This online service analyzes student submissions for plagiarism from published or online sources and compares their work to submissions made by other students (including students who have taken the course in previous semesters). To avoid plagiarism charges, students must cite all sources from which they get their information and use quotation marks when quoting directly from these sources, including the readings assigned for class. Students are

responsible for knowing how to correctly cite their sources; ignorance about proper citation standards will not be accepted as an excuse for plagiarism.

Late and Make-Up Policy:

All take-home exam questions are due *at the beginning* of class or scheduled exam time. Assignments submitted more than 15 minutes after the due date will be assessed a 5 percentage point late penalty. There will be an additional 10 percentage point penalty for each subsequent day that the assignment is late. *No assignments will be accepted more than one week late.*

Make-up exams will be approved only in the event of a medical or family emergency or a university-sanctioned event. *Extensions must be arranged ahead of time.* You must have documentation of your emergency (for example, a doctor's note) to be able to take a make-up exam. After you provide this documentation, a decision will be made regarding your request. Similarly, any request for an incomplete must be accompanied by written medical documentation.

Grade Appeals:

You have one week from when the grades are posted on Carmen to appeal the grade. You must submit a typed, double-spaced statement to the teaching assistant explaining why you are appealing your grade and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings, lectures, and/or answer keys. If you choose to appeal your grade, we reserve the right to decrease the original grade if a grading mistake or oversight resulted in it being erroneously high.

Accommodations for Disabled Students:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Other Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers):

1. *I have a personal/medical emergency or must miss class for other legitimate reasons. How can I make up the points I lose?*

A few years ago, I decided to stop making the distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences, because it put me in the uncomfortable position of having to decide what constituted a sufficient reason to make an absence an “excused” one. To accommodate all of our student’s diverse experiences, challenges, and needs without drawing arbitrary lines, I simply allow every student to miss up to four classes without penalizing their quiz grade, regardless of the reason for the absence(s).

As for the participation portion of your grade, students who miss points due to an absence have an opportunity to make up (at least some) of these points by participating regularly in class discussions on the days they do attend. Note that you will earn extra credit if you participate more than once a week (see “Class Participation” above), and this can be used to offset points you lose due to absences.

2. *What if I have to miss more than four classes?*

If you expect to miss more than four classes, I strongly encourage you not take this class. Although it will still be possible to pass the course, you will likely miss a great deal of material and will likely not get the grade you want. If unexpected circumstances result in you missing many classes during the course of the semester, your best course of action is to withdraw prior to the deadline. If you must withdraw after the deadline due to an emergency, I am happy to write a letter of support to get your withdrawal processed retroactively. Please see an academic advisor to learn about your options.

3. *What if I am absent on the day of an exam?*

If you are ill, you need to: (1) contact me *prior* to the start of the exam to arrange for an extension; and (2) go to an urgent care center to get necessary help and receive appropriate documentation. Unless you have *both* contacted me ahead of time and have the necessary documentation, you will not be allowed to make up the exam. If you are absent for other university-approved reasons, the same policy applies. You must notify me ahead of time and have the documentation to support your absence.

The policy above applies only for the in-class portion of the exams. Since you have at least an entire week to complete the take-home questions, no extensions will be given for these assignments. Do not wait until the last minute to start working on these; if an emergency comes up that prevents you from finishing the assignment, the usual late penalty will apply.

4. *How can I review the quiz questions I missed?*

The gradebook on Top Hat will indicate which questions you answered correctly and which you got wrong. It will also show you the first few words of each question. If you would like to see the full question and/or the correct answer, please come see me at office hours. (This option is available only to students who attended class on the day the quiz was given.) Also, feel free to write down/take a screen shot of each question for study purposes, although remember that the questions will also be available to you for review prior to the exam using the Top Hat tournament.

5. *Can I access the quiz and discussion questions if I'm not in class?*

Students who are logged in to Top Hat remotely will see exactly the same questions as the students in class. In theory, this means that it is possible to complete these without being present. Note, however, that the questions are available only for a limited period of time during the course of the class. If you're going to sit around by your phone or computer waiting for the questions to appear, you might as well come to class.

6. *Is attendance required?*

I will take attendance every day using Top Hat. However, this information will be used *only for record-keeping purposes*. None of your grade is based on attendance (with the exception described below). But keep in mind that participation makes up 25 percent of your final course grade and daily quizzes make up another 25 percent. It will be very hard to do well on these portions of your grade without actually attending class regularly.

There is one exception to this: Attendance *is required* on days when guest speakers are scheduled to join us. These people have taken time out of their busy schedule to share their insights with you, and I expect you to be there. Students who attend on these days will receive 10 participation points; those who are absent will not receive those points. Please

look over the detailed course schedule below and note the days on which guest speakers are coming, so you can schedule your other commitments accordingly.

7. *I am having problems connecting to the OSU wi-fi during class. How can I complete the daily quiz and participation questions if I can't connect to the internet?*

Make sure that you have registered your cell phone number on your Top Hat student account and have your phone with you in class. This will allow you to submit answers via SMS text message if you run into internet problems. Another option is to connect to Top Hat using your mobile internet, if you have a data plan.

If the internet connection is lost unexpectedly during a Top Hat session and you are using the Top Hat app on your phone or mobile device, the app will give you the option of saving your answers in "Offline Mode." Your responses will be automatically uploaded to Top Hat when the internet connection is re-established. You can find more information about Offline Mode here: <https://support.tophatmonocle.com/hc/en-us/articles/200200514-Offline-Submission-Mode-Video-Tutorial>. Note that Offline Mode is available only to students who are logged in while the question is active, and the app records an internal timestamp to verify that this is indeed the case. You cannot use this feature to submit answers late if you were not logged in when the questions are available.

*****Please be sure that you understand all of these options and know what to do if you run into problems using Top Hat. You will be responsible for making sure your answers are submitted and recorded correctly. Please contact Top Hat directly at support@tophat.com if you run into problems with anything.*****

8. *My internet connection is fine, but for some reason Top Hat will not let me submit my response.*

If you encounter an error message saying "Submission Failed, Please Retry" or see that the submission button is disabled (but there is still time available to submit an answer), click the answer you are trying to submit and take a screenshot of the question. Send the screenshot to support@tophat.com. Be sure to CC me on your e-mail.

If the question won't load on your device, submit your response via SMS text message.

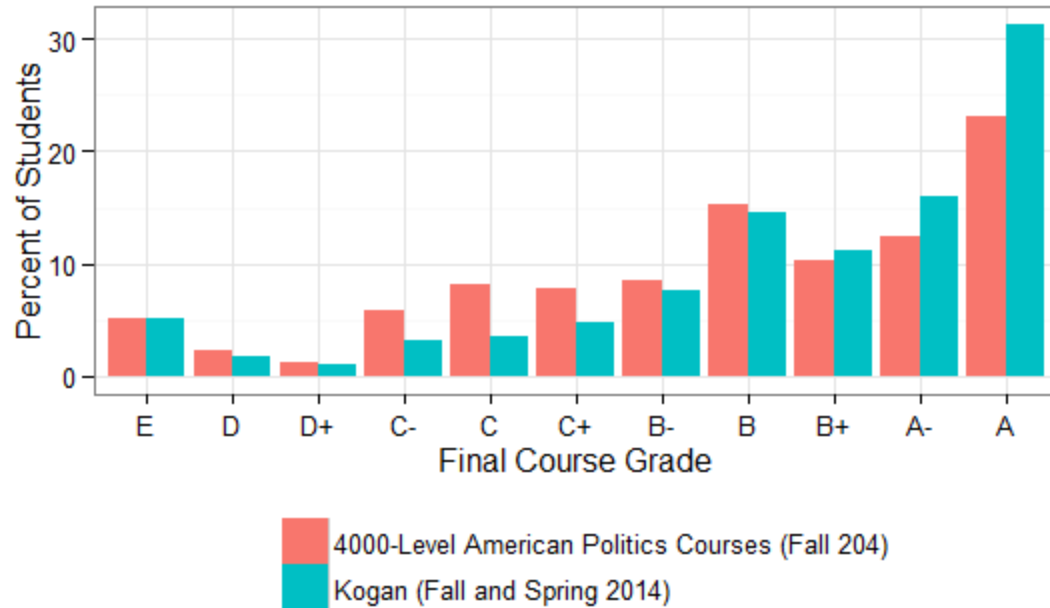
9. *I've submitted my response via SMS text message, but Top Hat responded with an error message saying the question code is incorrect. I verified the question code I'm using and it is indeed correct.*

Carefully check the question code again. If it is correct, your response was likely recorded successfully, despite the error message. You can check in the Top Hat gradebook to verify that this was the case. If the response was not recorded, take a screenshot of your text message (including timestamp and error message) and e-mail it to Top Hat technical support at the e-mail listed above. Again, CC me on the e-mail.

10. *Is there a curve?*

No. As you can see in the figure below, students generally do significantly better in my classes than other 4000-level American politics courses. (This is consistent with findings from experimental studies, which show that daily quizzes significantly increase student achievement in college courses.) Students who earn a grade below a "B-" usually miss

courses frequently, do not come to class with the assigned readings complete, or turn work in late. Avoid these pitfalls, and you will do well.



I do reserve the right to adjust the weights given to individual components of your final grade if doing so improves your overall course grade. These adjustments will never be made in a way that gives you a lower grade than you would earn using the weights listed above.

11. *I'm trying to submit the take-home essay questions on Carmen, but I am having problems.*

The upload feature on Carmen sometimes does not work on Google Chrome, so I encourage you to install a backup browser (Firefox, Internet Explorer, Safari, etc.) ahead of time just in case.

Assignments need to be submitted in one of the following formats:

- Microsoft Word (.doc and .docx)
- Corel WordPerfect
- HTML
- Plain text (.txt)
- Rich Text Format (.rtf)
- Portable Document Format (.pdf)

Note that neither Apple Pages nor OpenOffice files are currently supported. If you use one of these programs to compose your papers, be sure to export them to one of the formats listed above prior to submission.

Documents that cannot be opened due to incorrect file type or other issues will not be accepted and a late penalty will accrue until a valid file is uploaded. Double check after you've finished uploading to make sure your document works.

Note that computer problems are always a possibility. For this reason, I encourage you to always use Buckeye Box (<https://box.osu.edu/>) to regularly back up your work. If your computer is having issues, you can access your backed-up files from anywhere and upload your assignments from a different computer. Since you have free access to Buckeye Box and should be using it, computer problems will not be accepted as excuse for turning in your work late. The usual late penalty will apply.

12. *What if I can't attend class on a day when a guest speaker is coming in?*

See the policy about absences on exam days (No. 3 above), as it applies on these days as well. You need to notify me prior to the absence and bring necessary supporting documentation. You will need to complete an alternative written assignment (e-mail me for details) to make up the lost participation points.

Course Overview and Schedule:

PART I: DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN CITIES

Week 1

Thursday, January 13: **Introduction and Course Overview**

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 1 (*Screened in class*)

Tuesday, January 15: **City Building — Luck or Skill?**

Reading:

- Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America, Eight Edition* (Boston: Longman, 2012): Chapter 2 (“The Legacy of America’s Urban Past”).

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 2-3

Week 2

Tuesday, January 20: **Great Migration**

Reading:

- Nicholas Lemann, *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America* (New York: Vintage Books, 1991): “Chicago”.
- Robert B. Grant, *The Black Man Comes to the City: A Documentary Account from the Great Migration to the Great Depression* (Chicago: Nelson Hall Company, 1975): Chapter 3 (“The Reality of Opportunity: Employment Conditions”).

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 4-6

PART II: URBAN CRISIS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, January 22: **National Policy and Urban Decline**

Reading:

- Dennis R. Judd and Todd Swanstrom, *City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America, Eight Edition* (Boston: Longman, 2012): Chapter 7 (“National Policy and the City/Suburban Divide”).

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 7-8

Week 3

Tuesday, January 27: **Guest Speakers — Kristen Easterday and Michael Hartley (Columbus Chamber of Commerce)**

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 9-11

Thursday, January 29: **The Truly Disadvantaged**

Reading:

- William Julius Wilson, *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987): Chapter 2 (“Social Change and Social Dislocations in the Inner City”).

Episodes: Season 1, Episodes 12-13

Week 4

Tuesday, February 3: **City Government Finances**

Reading:

- Helen F. Ladd and John Yinger, *America's Ailing Cities: Fiscal Health and the Design of Urban Policy* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989): Chapter 1 (“National Trends and the Fiscal Health of Cities”) and Chapter 5 (“Standardized Fiscal Health”).

Episodes: Season 2, Episodes 1-3

Thursday, February 5: **Race to the Top or Bottom?**

Reading:

- Mark S. Rosentraub, *Major League Losers: The Real Cost of Sports and Who's Paying for It* (New York: Basic Books, 1999): Chapter 1 (“Introduction”) and Chapter 4 (“What Do Teams Really Mean for Cities?”).
- Amanda Erickson, “Is It Time to Stop Building Convention Centers?” *The Atlantic Cities*, June 11, 2012.

Episodes: Season 2, Episodes 4-5

Week 5

Tuesday, February 10: **Guest Speakers — Kenneth Paul
(Chief of Staff, Columbus City Council President's Office)**

Episodes: Season 2, Episodes 6-8

Thursday, February 12: **Politics of Economic Development**

Reading:

- Peter Eisinger, 2000, "The Politics of Bread and Circuses: Building the City for the Visitor Class," *Urban Affairs Review* 35(3): pp. 316-333.

Episodes: Season 2, Episodes 9-10

Week 6

Tuesday, February 17: **Moving to Opportunity**

Reading:

- Lisa Sanbonmatsu et al., 2012, "The Long-Term Effects on Moving to Opportunity on Adult Health and Economic Self-Sufficiency," *Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research* 14(2): pp. 109-136.

Episodes: Season 2, Episodes 11-12

****Take-home portion of midterm exam handed out****

PART III: VOTERS AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Thursday, February 19: **Guest Speaker — Kent Scarrett
(Lobbyist, Ohio Municipal League)**

Episodes: Season 3, Episodes 1-3

Week 7

Tuesday, February 24: **Race and Ethnic Politics**

Reading:

- Kevin A. Hill, Dario V. Moreno, and Lourdes Cue, 2001, "Racial and Partisan Voting in a Tri-Ethnic City: The 1996 Dade County Mayoral Election," *Journal of Urban Affairs* 23(3-4): pp. 291-307.
- *Episodes:* Season 3, Episodes 4-5

Thursday, February 26: **Midterm Exam**

****Take-home questions due at 12:25 p.m.****

Week 8

Tuesday, March 3: **Rainbow Coalitions and Minority Empowerment**

Reading:

- Claudine Gay, 2012, “Seeing Difference: The Effect of Economic Disparity on Black Attitudes Toward Latinos,” *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): pp. 982-997.

Episodes: Season 3, Episodes 6-8

Thursday, March 5: **Voters in Local Elections**

Reading:

- Michael K. Miller, 2013, “For the Win! The Effect of Professional Sports Records on Mayoral Elections,” *Social Science Quarterly* 94(1): pp. 59-78.

Episodes: Season 3, Episodes 9-10

PART IV: POLITICS OF CRIME

Week 9

Tuesday, March 10: **Industrial Organization of Crime**

Reading:

- David Skarbek, *The Social Order of the Underworld: How Prison Gangs Govern the American Penal System* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014): Chapter 4 (“Governance in the Society of Captives”) and Chapter 6 (“How Prison Gangs Govern the Outside”).

Episodes: Season 3, Episodes 11-12

Thursday, March 12: **Economics of Drug Gangs**

Reading:

- Steven D. Levitt and Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh, 2000, “An Economics Analysis of a Drug-Selling Gang’s Finances,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 115(3): pp. 755-789.

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 1-2

Week 10

Tuesday, March 17: **Spring Break**

Thursday, March 19: **Spring Break**

Week 11

Tuesday, March 24: **Guest Speaker — Jack Reall
(President, Columbus Professional Firefighters)**

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 3-5

Thursday, March 26: **Race and Crime**

Reading:

- Katherine Beckett, Kris Nyrop, and Lori Pfingst, 2006, "Race, Drugs, and Policing: Understanding Disparities in Drug Delivery Arrests," *Criminology* 44(1): pp. 105-137.

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 6-7

Week 12

Tuesday, March 31: **Police-Community Relations**

Reading:

- Sarath Sanga, 2014, "Does Officer Race Matter?," *American Law and Economics Review* 16(2): pp. 403-432.

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 8-9

Thursday, April 2: **Broken Windows Theory**

Reading:

- George L. Kelling and James Q. Wilson, 1982, "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety," *Atlantic Monthly*.
- Anthony A. Braga and Brenda J. Bond, 2008, "Policing Crime and Disorder Hot Spots: A Randomized Controlled Trial," *Criminology* 46(3): pp. 577-607.

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 10-11

Week 13

Tuesday, April 7: **Crime and Politics**

Reading:

- R. Douglas Arnold and Nicholas Carnes, 2012, "Holding Mayors Accountable: New York's Executives from Koch to Bloomberg," *American Journal of Political Science* 56(4): pp. 949-963.

Episodes: Season 4, Episodes 12-13

Thursday, April 9: **No Class**

Episodes: Season 5, Episodes 1-3

PART V: FIXING URBAN EDUCATION

Week 14

Tuesday, April 14: **Poverty and the Challenges of Urban Education**

Reading:

- Helen F. Ladd, 2012, "Education and Poverty: Confronting the Evidence," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 31(2): pp. 203-227.
- Douglas B. Downey, Paul T. von Hippel, and Beckett A. Broh, 2004, "Are Schools the Great Equalizer? Cognitive Inequality During the Summer Months and the School Year," *American Sociological Review* 69(5): pp. 613-635.

Episodes: Season 5, Episodes 4-5

Thursday, April 16: **Guest Speaker — Rhonda Johnson**
(Education Director, City of Columbus)

Episodes: Season 5, Episodes 6-8

Week 15

Tuesday, April 21: **Charter Schools**

Reading:

- Center for Research on Education Outcomes, 2014, “Charter School Performance in Ohio.”
- Caroline M. Hoxby, Sonali Murarka, and Jenny Kang, 2009, “How New York City’s Charter Schools Affect Achievement,” The New York City Charter School Evaluation Project.

Thursday, April 23: **Performance, Accountability, and School Reform**

Reading:

- New America Foundation, “No Child Left Behind — Overview”
- Vladimir Kogan, Stéphane Lavertu, and Zachary Peskowitz, 2014, “Performance Federalism and Local Democracy: Theory and Evidence from School Tax Referenda,” working paper.

Episodes: Season 5, Episodes 9-10

****Take-home portion of final exam handed out****

****FINAL EXAM: Thursday, April 30, 2 to 3:45 p.m.****