Seminars on Political Economy
L32 4551 and 5551,L50 498
FALL 2016
Wednesday 4-6pm
Seigle Hall 170:WC Seminar room
Instructor: Norman Schofield (schofield.norman@gmail.com)

Syllabus

This is a research seminar. The seminar will discuss some elements of Constitutional History, using *Architects of Political Change* (AP) and then go on to the study of elections in the US, the UK and various ex-communist countries, including Poland, Georgia, the Caucasus, using my book *Leadership or Chaos* (LC).

There will be detailed analyses of elections in various other countries, such as Israel, Turkey, Russia, Canada. Finally we shall discuss theories of democratization and of partial democracies, using recent work by Acemoglu and Robinson, Przeworski, and Paul Collier and Epstein et al..

Students will be expected to work on a substantial research paper, either empirically or theoretically based. If time permits, there will be an opportunity for students to make a presentation of their work at the end of the semester. This research paper should be approximately 20 pp (double spaced) in length.

There will be two required books for the course:


Norman Schofield and Maria Gallego *Leadership or Chaos* (springer 2011) (called LC)

I shall send you copies of these via the web.

Part 1. Constitutional History (AP)

Week 1: first class. September 7: AP Chs 1 & 2. Introduction and Power and Social Choice

Week 2: September 14 AP Chs 3 & 4: “Franklin and Madison”.

Week 3: September 21 No class

Week 4: September 28 LC Chs 5 & 6: “Lincoln and Johnson

Week 5: October 5 LC Ch 2 and 3

Part 2 (Elections in the US and UK)

Week 6: October 12 The US LC Ch 5

Week 7: October 19 The UK LC Ch 6
Part 4. Elections in Autocracies
Week 8: October 26  Elections in Russia, Poland and the Caucasus  LC Chs 8, 9 and 10
Week 9: November 2  Elections in Turkey, Israel  LC Ch10

Part 5. Democracy and Authoritarian Regimes

Week 12: November 23. No class.
Week 13: November 30. Last meeting, student presentations