

Washington University  
Department of Political Science  
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Comparative Political Economy L32 4552

Seminar in Social Choice and Comparative Political Economy L32 5552

**Spring 2015**

Weidenbaum Center Seminar room Wednesday 4.00-6.00  
TA Elena Labzina

**Syllabus**

In the last few years a number of important books have appeared that combine elements of economics reasoning and political science, in an effort to understand the wide variation in economic development in the world. This course will deal with the logic apparatus underpinning these books. In addition, the course will introduce the student to the theoretical apparatus that can be used to examine democratic institutions in the developed world, and the success or otherwise of moves to democratization in the less developed world.

**Requirements.** Students will be expected to work on two short research papers, either empirically or theoretically based. The total length of these essays should be approximately 20pp. If time permits, there will be an opportunity for students to make a presentation of their work at the end of the semester.

My books and articles are available on my website at [http://polisci.wustl.edu/norman\\_schofield](http://polisci.wustl.edu/norman_schofield)

**Required Books**

Norman Schofield (2006), *Architects of Political Change: Constitutional Quandaries and Social Choice Theory* Cambridge University Press (2006) (AP).

This book will be available in the bookshop.

**Norman Schofield and Maria Gallego** *Leadership or Chaos*,(LC)(Springer 2013)

I have electronic copies of the following manuscripts:

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Cambridge University Press (2006) (AR).

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail* (2013)

Douglass North, Barry Weingast and John Wallis, *Violence and Social Orders*. Cambridge University Press (2009). (NWW)

**Additional Readings**

Gregory Clark, *A Farewell to Alms*, Princeton University Press (2007) and essays by Clark W. Calvin, *Human Evolution and Abrupt Climate Change*. University of Chicago Press (2006) and essays by Calvin

Paul Collier, *Wars Guns and Votes*, Harper, 2009 and essays by Collier

**Part 1. Constitutional Transformation in the US and UK, 1776-Present**

**Weeks 1 to 5.** January 14 to February 11

Norman Schofield, *Leadership or Chaos* chapters 1 and 2

Norman Schofield, *Architects of Political Change: Constitutional Quandaries and Social Choice Theory*, chapters 1 to 5.

Gregory Clark, *A Farewell to Alms* and articles

**Part 2. Democracy**

**Weeks 6 and 7.** February 18 and February 25

Norman Schofield, *Leadership or Chaos* chapters 5 to 8

**Part 3: Democratization**

**Weeks 8 to 11** March 4 to March 25

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*.

Douglass North, Barry Weingast and John Wallis, *Violence and Social Orders*.

Paul Collier. *Wars, Guns and Votes*

*Readings on "Failed States"* by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson

**Part 3: International Political Economy – The Atlantic Constitution and The Emergence of International Institutions after WWII**

**Week 12** April 1

Norman Schofield, *Architects of Political Change: Constitutional Quandaries and Social Choice Theory*, chapter 7.

**Part 4: The Politics of Climate Change**

**Week 13** April 8

W. Calvin, *Human Evolution and Abrupt Climate Change*.

N.Stern, *The Economics of Climate Change*

**Week 14 April 15**

**Part 5: Week 15 April 22 Final discussion/class presentations**

