Seminars on Political Economy
L32 4551 and 5551,L50 498
FALL 2015
Wednesday 4-6pm
Seigle Hall 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 20pp (double spaced) in length.

There will be two required books for the course:

Norman Schofield (2006), Architects of Political Change: Constitutional Quandaries and Social Choice Theory (called AP)
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: August 26: AP Chs 1 &2. Introduction and Power and Social Choice
Week 2: September 2 AP Chs 3 &4: “Franklin and Madison”.
Week 3: September 9 AP Chs 5 &6: “Lincoln and Johnson”
Week 4: September 16 LC Ch 1
Week 5: September 23 LC Ch5 and 3

Part 2 (Elections in the US and UK)

Week 6: September 30 The US LC Ch5
Week 7: October 7 The UK LC Ch6

Part 4. Elections in Autocracies
Week 8: October 14  Elections in Turkey, Russia, Poland and the Caucasus LC Chs 8, 9 and 10
Week 9: October 21  Elections in Turkey, Israel  LC Ch10

Part 5. Democracy and Authoritarian Regimes

Week
Weeks 12 and 13: November 11 and November 18 student presentations
Week 14: November 25. No class.
Week 15: December 2. Last lecture, final discussion.