

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 Ch2 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 10 and 11: October 28 and November 4. Discussion of work by Acemoglu and Robinson, Przeworski, Epstein et al, Collier.

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.