

***Seminar in Political Economy***  
***L32 4551 and 5551***  
***L50 498 Senior Seminar in Political Theory***

***FALL 2011***

***Wednesday 4-6pm***  
***Seigle Hall***

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## **Syllabus**

This is a research seminar. The seminar will discuss some elements of Constitutional History, using the books, *Architects of Political Change* and *Leadership or Chaos*.

We shall then consider more formal analysis of political systems, using social choice theory, including Arrow's Impossibility Theorem, the chaos results in voting theory, and then empirical and formal models of elections and coalition government.

There will be detailed analyses of elections in the US and in European countries, as well as other countries like Israel, Turkey, Russia, and Canada. Finally we shall discuss theories of political economy and democratization, using recent work by Acemoglu and Robinson, Przeworski, 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:

- (i) Norman Schofield (2006), *Architects of Political Change: Constitutional Quandaries and Social Choice Theory* Cambridge UP, 2006. (called AP).
  - (ii) Norman Schofield, *Leadership or Chaos*, (LC) Springer (2011, in press for July)
- AP and LC can also be downloaded from the website.

I have three more books that you can also download from my website

These are a bit more specialized, but may be useful on occasion:

(iii) Norman Schofield and Itai Sened (2006), *Multiparty Democracy: Elections and Legislative Politics* (MD). Cambridge UP, 2006. (MD).

(iv) Norman Schofield *Spatial Model of Politics* (SM) , Routledge 2008

(v) Norman Schofield *Political Economy of Democracy and Tyranny* (PEDA) Oldenbourg (2009).

There are also a number of published papers on this website, about elections in the USA, Russia, Turkey, and Poland, Canada and the USA, which I shall use. These analyses are also in LC. Papers on the US and on authoritarian regimes include

1. Articles by Miller and Schofield (*APSR, Political Studies, Perspectives on Politics, AJPS*)
2. Article by Schofield and Levinson on Authoritarian regimes in *Politics, Philosophy and Economics*.
3. Article by Schofield on “Social Orders” from *Social Choice and Welfare*. This is a review of the book by Douglass North, Barry Weingast and John Wallis on *Violence and Social Orders*.

We shall also look at work on political economy by Acemoglu and Robinson, by Przeworski , and by Paul Collier on *Wars Guns and Votes* and empirical work on British elections by Clarke, Sanders, Stewart and Whiteley,

The last topic will deal with climate change, and work by Chichilnisky and Collier on *The Plundered Planet*.

I shall distribute articles by these authors, and manuscripts of the books by Acemoglu and Robinson on *Why Nations Fail* and *Economic Models of Democracy and Dictatorship* and by North Wallis and Weingast on *Violence and Social Orders*.

## Part 1. Constitutional History (AP)

Week 1: Aug 31: AP Chs 1 &2. Introduction and Power and Social Choice and LC Chs 1 and 2.

Week 2: September 7 AP Chs 3 &4: “Franklin and Madison”.

Week 3: September 14 AP Chs 5 &6: “Lincoln and Johnson”

Week 4: September 21 “International Order” and “Keynes.”-AP Chs 7 &8.

## Part 2 Social Choice theory (SM)

Week 5: September 28 : Preference and Choice Functions, Arrow’s Theorem and Voting Rules. We shall use some material from SM.

Week 6: October 5 : The core and the heart, Spatial Models of coalition. SM Chapters 4, 5 and 6

## Part 3. Elections (MD and LC)

Week 7: October 12: US elections-Articles by Miller and Schofield (*APSR, Political Studies, Perspectives on Politics, AJPS*) and Chapter 5 of LC.

Week 8: October 19 Elections in Netherlands, Britain, Canada, Netherlands. Chs 6 and 7 of LC, including discussion of work by Clarke et al on British elections.

Week 9: October 26 : Elections in Israel and Turkey, Russia, Poland. Chs 8-10 of LC.

#### Part 4. Democracy and Authoritarian Regimes (PEDA)

Week 10: November 2 Discussion on “Democratization”, *Why Nations Fail*-Acemoglu and Robinson , North, Wallis and Weingast *Violence and Social Orders*.

Week 11: November 9 Climate Change Ch 4 of LC and discussion of work by Stern, Collier and Chichilnisky.

Week 12: November 16. last lecture, discussion, Individual Meetings with students to discuss papers, and/or student presentations.

Week 13 November 23 no class

Weeks 14-15: November 30 to December 7: Individual Meetings with students to discuss papers, and class presentations.

Final papers due Dec 22.