

POLS 4073
Social Choice and Institutions
Fall 2016

Instructor

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Office Hours: Monday
1:30 PM-3:30 PM, and by appointment

Class Schedule

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
11:15 AM-12:05 PM
Journalism Building 504

Course Description This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to social choice theory and its application to political institutions. Students will learn the analytical tools of social choice theory and will use these tools to analyze and better understand American political institutions.

Readings

The following books are required and should be available at the campus bookstore:

Howell, William G. and Terry M. Moe. 2016. *Relic: How Our Constitution Undermines Effective Government*. Basic Books.

All other readings for this course will consist of various articles and book chapters assigned that will either be available online or will be emailed to the class.

Course Grading

Your grade in this class will be assigned according to the following:

1. **Class attendance and participation** (10% of final grade): Students are expected to be familiar with assigned readings and should be prepared to intelligently discuss and debate issues from the readings during class. As such, class attendance and participation will be vital to your success in this class. To be awarded full participation points you must attend class, read any assigned materials, and actively engage the class in discussion.
2. **Short Assignments** (30% of final grade): A variety of short assignments will be due throughout the semester. These assignments are designed to encourage students to engage with the course readings and to develop analytical skills. They will consist of both short reactions to readings and short problem sets over technical portions of the readings.

Assignments turned in late will be penalized one letter grade for each day they are late. After one week, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

3. **Midterm Exam** (30% of final grade): Please take note of the date for the midterm exam and mark it on your calendar now.

4. **Final Exam** (30% of final grade): Please take note of the date for the final exam and mark it on your calendar now.

Missed exams will only be excused for a documented illness (documentation must be provided by a physician) or a death in the family. If you are excused from an exam, I reserve the right to alter the format and substance of the makeup exam (e.g. you may not get the same exam as everyone else).

Course grades will be assigned as follows: 93–100% = A, 90–93% = A-, 87–90% = B+, 83–87% = B, 80–83% = B-, 77–80% = C+, 73–77% = C, 70–73% = C-, 60–70% = D, 0–60% = F.

Other Issues

1. **Disabilities:** Students with disabilities of any kind are strongly encouraged to tell me at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Services Office will be accommodated according to university policy. Contact Disabilities Services for more information.
2. **Instructor Availability:** I am available to meet with students by appointment if anyone cannot attend my posted office hours. Please email me to schedule a meeting.
3. **Technology in the Classroom:** Technology, used correctly, has the potential to greatly improve the quality of our lives. Technology, used incorrectly, has the potential of making the instructor very angry. Turn off your cell phone while in class (some exceptions may apply - e.g. you a transplant surgeon anxiously awaiting the arrival of a donor heart). Laptops may be used to take notes in class, but not for playing games, checking email, or surfing the internet. Texting is never appropriate in class, unless it is to give your friends updates on the juicy tidbits you are learning about institutional analysis. I will understand if you can't wait until after class to tell your friends about how the filibuster restricts the policy outcomes possible in American lawmaking. I would have done the same, if texting had been available when I was in college.
4. **Cheating and Plagiarism:** All course work must meet the standards put forth in the University of Georgia's Student Honor Code. See the Academic Honesty Policy for details on what is expected of you (<https://ovpi.uga.edu/sites/default/files/uga-academic-honesty-policy-may-07.pdf>).

Tentative Schedule

Why Institutions

August 12-17

Introduction

Laver, Michael. 1983. "Why We Need Governments." In *Invitation to Politics*

August 19-24

Collective Action and Institutions

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science*. 162: 1243-1248.

Axelrod, Robert M. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*, Chapters 1 and 4.

Introduction to Institutional Analysis

August 26

Norms, Rules, and Institutions

Shepsle, Kenneth A. 2010. "The Rules of the Game: What Rules? Which Game?"

September 29- September 2

Tools of Analysis

Shepsle, Kenneth A. 2010. *Analyzing Politics*. Selected chapters.

Strom, Gerald S. 1990. *The Logic of Lawmaking: A Spatial Theory Approach*. Selected chapters.

September 5

Labor Day-No Class

September 7-12

Tools of Analysis Continued

Strom, Gerald S. 1990. *The Logic of Lawmaking: A Spatial Theory Approach*. Selected chapters.

Shepsle, Kenneth A. 1986. "Institutional Equilibrium and Equilibrium Institutions." In *Political Science: The Science of Politics*.

September 14-21

First Applications

Dougherty, Keith L. and Jac C. Heckelman. 2006. "A Pivotal Voter from a Pivotal State: Roger Sherman at the Constitutional Convention." *American Political Science Review* 100(2): 297-302.

Fiorina, Morris P. and Charles R. Plott. 1978. "Committee Decisions Under Majority Rule: An Experimental Study." *American Political Science Review*. 72(2): 575-598.

Bianco, William T., Michael S. Lynch, Gary J. Miller, and Itai Sened. 2006. "A Theory Waiting to Be Discovered and Used": A Reanalysis of Canonical Experiments on Majority-Rule Decision Making." *Journal of Politics*. 68(4): 838-851.

Congress

September 23-28

Pivotal Politics

Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*. Selected chapters.

September 30- October 5

Filibusters

Wawro, Gregory J. and Eric Schickler. 2004. "Where's the Pivot?" *American Journal of Political Science*. 48: 758-774.

Madonna, Anthony J. 2011. "Winning Coalition Formation in the U.S. Senate." *American Journal of Political Science*. 55: 276-288.

October 7

Midterm Exam

October 10-14

Multidimensional Models

Poole, Keith and Howard Rosenthal. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. Chapters 1 and 2.

Hammond, Thomas and Gary J. Miller 1987. "The Core of the Constitution." *American Political Science Review*. 81:1155-1174.

October 24-26

Strategic Voting

Denzau, Arthur T., William H. Riker, Kenneth A. Shepsle. 1985. "Farquharson and Fenno: Sophisticated Voting and Home Style." *American Political Science Review*. 79: 117-134.

Groseclose, Tim and Jeffery Milyo. "Sincere Versus Sophisticated Voting in Congress: Theory and Evidence." *Journal of Politics*. 72(1): 1-14.

October 28

No Class-Fall Break

President

October 31- November 2

Veto Power

Cameron, Charles. *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*. Selected chapters.

November 4-7

Unilateral Power

Moe, Terry M, and William G. Howell. 1999. "Unilateral Action and Presidential Power: A theory." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 29: 850-873.

Courts

November 9-11

Appointments

Moraski, Byron J., and Charles R. Shipan. 1999. The Politics of Supreme Court Nominations: A Theory of Institutional Constraints and Choices. *American Journal of Political Science*. 43: 1069-95.

November 14

Agenda Control and Opinions

Bonneau, Hammond, Maltzman, and Wahlbeck. 2007. "Agenda Control, the Median Justice, and the Majority Opinion on the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Journal of Political Science*.

Reforming Institutions

November 16-18

Empowering the President

Howell, William G. and Terry M. Moe. 2016. *Relic*

November 25-29

No Class-Thanksgiving

November 30-December 2

Empowering the President Continued

Howell, William G. and Terry M. Moe. 2016. *Relic*

December 5

Catch and Review

December 9

Final Exam 12 PM-3 PM