Instructor: Andrea Mattozzi  
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Website: http://www.hss.caltech.edu/~andrea/teaching.html  
Office hours: by appointment  
Class time: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM, Baxter 315  
First day of class: Tuesday, March 29 2011  

**Texts:**

Optional texts for overview and general references are:  
Texts are put in reserve in the Fairchild Library.  

**Overview:**

The aim of this course is to introduce you to theoretical and applied research in political economy. The focus will be on formal analysis of the strategic interaction between rational individuals, political institutions, and economic outcomes. Some of the questions we are interested in are: Why do people vote? What are the incentives of elected politician and what is the effect of these incentives on the policies they will implement? To what extent differences in political institutions account for differences in redistributive policies? Topics that will be covered include: theory of voting, models of direct democracy, models of electoral competition, the political economy of redistribution, comparative political institutions.  

**Exams:**

Midterm Exam (1:30 hours take home): Thursday, April 28  
Final Exam (3:00 hours take home): June 1-3  
All exams are available for pick-up and drop-off in Baxter 331 (office of Sheryl Cobb). You will need to sign-off a sheet with the exact times when you take/bring back the exams (so please avoid the lunch time). Student taking the course for credit will have to take the midterm exam and the final exam.
Homework:

Homework will be assigned approximately every other week.

Grades:

Your final grade is a weighted average of your performance on the midterm exam (40%), final exam (50%), and homework (10%).

Reading List:

The following reading list should be regarded as tentative and subject to revision.

1. Basic Results in the Theory of Voting


2. Voting: Participation and Information Aggregation


3. Models of Direct Democracies


4. **Models of Electoral Competition**


5. **Dynamic Models**


6. **Comparing Political Institutions**


Tentative Course Schedule:

Tuesday, March 29: Introduction

Thursday, March 31: Basic Results in the Theory of Voting 1

Tuesday, April 5: Basic Results in the Theory of Voting 2, HW 1 assigned

Thursday, April 7: Basic Results in the Theory of Voting 3

Tuesday, April 12: Basic Results in the Theory of Voting 4, HW 2 assigned

Thursday, April 14: Games of Complete Information

Friday, April 15: last day for adding courses and removing conditions and incompletes

Tuesday, April 19: Participation and Information Aggregation 1, HW 3 assigned

Thursday, April 21: Participation and Information Aggregation 2

Tuesday, April 26: Models of Direct Democracies 1

Thursday, April 28: Midterm Exam

Tuesday, May 3: Models of Direct Democracies 2

Thursday, May 5: Downsian Model, HW 4 assigned

Tuesday, May 10: Probabilistic Voting Model

Thursday, May 12: Citizen-Candidate Model, HW 5 assigned

Tuesday, May 17: Dynamic Models: Moral Hazard

Wednesday, May 18: last day for dropping courses, exercising pass/fail option, and changing sections

Thursday, May 19: Dynamic Models: Adverse Selection, HW 6 assigned

Tuesday, May 24: Comparing Political Institutions 1

Thursday, May 26: Comparing Political Institutions 2

Tuesday, May 31: Comparing Political Institutions 3

June 1-3: Final Exam