This is a ten-week course, focusing primarily on individual and social choice. Topics will include abstract choice theory, classical decision theory, Arrovian social choice, and formal spatial voting models.

There are three required texts for this course:

- D. Austen-Smith and J. Banks: “Positive Political Theory I: Collective Preference.”

If you can find a copy, the following is also useful to have:


We will primarily follow Kreps and Austen-Smith and Banks. However, there are results not in the books that you might need to know. Some of these will be listed below; others I will assign as they occur to me.

Each week I will assign homework. The homework assignments will contain questions from topics covered in class, as well as readings. You are allowed to work in groups, but everybody should hand in their own assignment. I will not accept late homework. If you have worked with others, please list the names of the other students you have worked with. I plan to also have each student to do a short presentation of at least one of the main theorems or ideas from the class. There will also be a final exam.

Below is a tentative list of readings. Due to time constraints, we will not get through the entire syllabus in class. I have put a (*) next to readings that might be considered “less important” and which I probably will not teach in class but which may be helpful for homeworks, and which you may be interested in anyway.

**Abstract choice theory and binary relations**

- Austen-Smith & Banks, Chapter 1
- Kreps, Chapters 1-2.
Single-agent choices (decisions) under certainty and uncertainty, utility representations

- Kreps, Chapters 3-6.

Abstract social choice, the binary model and classical results

- Austen-Smith & Banks, Chapter 2-3.
- K. Arrow, *Social choice and individual values*.
- Gibbard-Satterthwaite Theorem

Preference restrictions, spatial competition, and “resolving” impossibilities

- Austen-Smith and Banks, Chapters 4-5
Cycles and chains in spatial models, “chaos” results, the topcycle and uncovered sets

- Austen-Smith and Banks, Chapter 6

Agendas and manipulation