

Winter 2015 – 16

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 [or *moodle*]

Text

The main textbook is “**Political Economics : Explaining Economic Policy**”, by **T. Persson and G. Tabellini** (MIT Press, 2000), denoted “P & T” below.

There’s also a workbook which accompanies this text, which is recommended, not required : “**Workbook to Accompany Political Economics : Explaining Economic Policy**”, by I. Brocas, M. Castanheira, R. Razin and D. Stromberg (MIT Press, 2000).

Three useful supplementary books, which are not required, are “**Principled Agents? The Political Economy of Good Government**” by **T. Besley** (Oxford U Press, 2006) (denoted “Besley” below), “**Analyzing Politics**” (second edition), by **K. Shepsle** (Norton, 2010) (denoted “Shepsle” below), “**Public Choice III**”, by **D. Mueller** (Cambridge U Press, 2003) (denoted “Mueller” below) and “**A Primer in Social Choice Theory [Revised Edition]**”, by **W. Gaertner** (Oxford U Press, 2009), denoted “Gaertner” below.

Prerequisites

AP/ECON 2300, and AP/ECON 2350 or equivalent [and all the pre- or corequisites for ECON 2300, namely AP/ECON 1000, AP/ECON 1010, AP/ECON 1530, AP/ECON 1540]

Evaluation

Mid-term	Wednesday Feb. 10	in class time	1 hour	33.33%
Final Exam	exam period	(Apr 6 – 20)	2 hours	66.67%

Senate Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one’s programme or specialization may result in serious consequences. Students should look at the SENATE POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY which can be found on the web at

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with this Senate legislation.

COURSE OUTLINE

(for more details, check <http://dept.econ.yorku.ca/~sam/4380/sections.html>)

1. Majority Rule : P & T, chapter 2 ; Shepsle, chapters 4, 6 ; Mueller, chapter 5 ; Gaertner, chapter 3
2. Other Decision Rules : Shepsle, chapter 7 ; Mueller, chapter 7 ; Gaertner, chapter 6
3. Impossibility Theorems : Mueller, chapter 24 ; Gaertner, chapters 2, 5
4. Vote-Maximizing Parties : P & T, chapters 3, 5 ; Shepsle, chapter 5 ; Mueller, chapters 11, 12, 13
5. Bureaucracy : P & T, chapter 4 ; Shepsle, chapter 3 ; Mueller, chapter 16
6. Legislatures : P & T, chapters 5, 8 ; Shepsle, chapter 12 ; Mueller, chapter 17
7. Multi-Level Government : P & T, chapter 7 ; Mueller, chapter 10
8. Proportional Representation : P & T, chapter 8 ; Mueller, chapter 13