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Fall 2008, Tues. and Thurs. 9:40-10:55  
Office Hours: Mon. 1-3 and by appt.  
[www.rochester.edu/College/PSC/primo](http://www.rochester.edu/College/PSC/primo)

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**\*\*\*dates for specific lectures are approximate; exam dates are set in stone\*\*\***

September 2: Introduction

### **TOPIC 1: Individual Preferences and Rationality**

1. September 4

Reading: SB, chs. 1-2

### **TOPIC 2: Group Choice**

2a. September 9 and 11: Voting Rules

Reading: SB, ch. 3 and pp. 167-177

2b. September 11 and 16: Condorcet's Paradox and Arrow's Impossibility Theorem

Reading: SB, ch. 4 (skip pp. 72-76)

2c. September 18, 23, and 25: The Spatial Model

Reading: SB, pp. 82-103

### **TOPIC 3: Game Theory**

3a. September 30 and October 2: Solving Basic Games

Reading: Dixit and Skeath (Reserves—Blackboard)

*EXAM 1 (covers Topics 1 and 2): October 7*

3b. October 9: Experiments and Behavioral Economics

Reading: Adler (Reserves—Blackboard)

Basu (Reserves—Blackboard)

Gandel (Reserves—Blackboard)

### **TOPIC 4: Collective Action Problems**

4a. October 14: Prisoner's Dilemma

Reading: SB, ch. 8

4b. October 16 and 21: Voting and Other Multiperson Collective Action Problems

Reading: SB, ch. 9

## **TOPIC 5: Public Goods, Externalities, and the Commons**

- 5a. October 23: Public Goods  
Reading: SB, pp. 260-277
- 5b. October 28: Externalities and the Commons Problem  
Reading: SB, pp. 278-287
- 5c. October 30: The Commons Problem  
Reading: SB, pp. 288-296

## **TOPIC 6: Elections**

- 6a. November 4 and 11: Candidate Location Models  
Reading: SB, pp. 103-115

*EXAM 2 (covers Topics 3-5): November 6*

- 6b. November 13: Electoral Systems  
Reading: SB, pp. 177-184, 188-191
- 6c. November 18: Electoral Reform  
Reading: To be announced

## **TOPIC 7: Legislatures**

- 7a. November 20: Legislators  
Reading: SB, ch. 6
- 7b. November 25, December 2 and 4: Institutions and Rules  
Reading: SB, pp. 115-133, chs. 11-12

December 9: Course Wrap-Up and Review

*EXAM 3 (covers Topics 6-7): December 11*

*There is no final exam.*