

***Seminar on Social Choice and Comparative Political
Economy L32 5552
Comparative Political Economy L32 4552
Spring 2011***

Instructor: Norman Schofield (schofield.norman@gmail.com)

This is a research seminar. Students will be expected to work on a substantial research paper, either empirically or theoretically based. If time permits, there will be an opportunity for students to make a presentation of their work at the end of the semester. This research paper should be approximately 20pp (double spaced) in length.

Syllabus

There will be three required books for the course:

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Cambridge University Press (2005) (AR)
Douglass North, Barry Weingast and John Wallis, *Violence and Social Orders* Cambridge University Press (2009)(NWW)
Adam Przeworski et al., *Democracy and Development*. Cambridge University Press (2000). (AP)

I shall also make use of material from:

Norman Schofield and Itai Sened, *Multiparty Democracy*, (MD) Cambridge University Press (2000).

Norman Schofield *Spatial Model of Politics* (SM) , Routledge 2008

Norman Schofield (2006), *Architects of Political Change: Constitutional Quandaries and Social Choice Theory* (called AP). Cambridge University Press (2006).

Material from these three books is available from my website at

http://polisci.wustl.edu/sub_page.php?s=3&m=0&d=24

I also have early drafts of AR and NWW available on the website, together with material from the other recommended books:

Gregory Clark, *A Farewell to Alms*, Princeton University Press (2007)

Niall Ferguson, *The Ascent of Money* (Penguin: Harmondsworth, 2008).

Paul Collier, *Wars Guns and Votes* (Oxford, 2009)

Nick Stern, *The Economics of Climate Change* (Cambridge, 2009)

**Part 1. Constitutional Transformation in the US and UK, 1776-Present
Weeks 1 to 6.**

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*.

Douglass North, Barry Weingast and John Wallis, *Violence and Social Orders*.

Gregory Clark, *A Farewell to Alms*.

Niall Ferguson, *The Ascent of Money* (Penguin: Harmondsworth, 2008).

Norman Schofield, *AP*, chapters 1 to 5.

The first part of the course will use AR and NWW to interpret constitutional transformation in the U.S., and the U.K. from 1776 to the present. The paper on “Social Orders” on the website gives an introduction to many of these ideas.

We shall also discuss the ideas of Gregory Clark, on economic growth in England, and of Niall Ferguson on the Global Economy.

**Part 2: Democracy and Democratization
Weeks 7 to 11**

Norman Schofield, *AP* chapter 6

Adam Przeworski et al., *Democracy and Development*.

Paul Collier, *Wars Guns and Votes* (Oxford, 2009)

Recent papers by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson on autocracy

The second part will use (AP) to consider questions of democratization. The paper on “Authoritarian Regimes” on the website discusses such regimes in the Soviet Union, and Argentina. Here we shall also discuss recent papers by Collier on less developed polities

**Part 3: International Political Economy – The Atlantic Constitution and The
Emergence of International Institutions after WWII
Week 12**

Norman Schofield, *AP*, chapter 7

The third part will continue with a discussion of International Political Economy, starting with Chapter 7 of AP. This chapter introduces the idea of the Atlantic Constitution and the creation of the post WWII international institutions.

Part 4: The Politics of Climate Change

Week 13

W. Calvin, *Human Evolution and Abrupt Climate Change*.

Nick Stern, *The Economics of Climate Change* (Cambridge, 2009)

SM, chapters 1 to 4

The final part of the course will discuss some general issues arising from the theory of social choice. If time permits, I hope to discuss questions about Climate Change raised in the book by W. Calvin, *Human Evolution and Abrupt Climate Change* (Chicago University Press, 2006), and Stern on the economics of climate change.

Part 5: Student Presentations

Weeks 14 and 15

