

Ec 155 – Econ/Voting and Public Choice

Foster, UCSD, April 18, 2008

SYLLABUS
Fall Term 2004

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours

- Carroll B. Foster, Ph.D. (instructor)
Office hours: MF, 1-2³⁰ pm, ECON 110C
- Giuseppe Lanza W, 8³⁰-9³⁰ am, ECON 116

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Course Information

- Lecture (508115) – MWF, 10-10⁵⁰ am, WLH 2111
- Description – Economic analysis of social decision making, covering voting theory, the efficiency of collective decision processes, and the characteristics of public sector (government) resource allocation. Prerequisites: Ec 100AB or Ec 170AB.
- Course webpage: www.econ.ucsd.edu (click link “Courses/webpages & office hours”)

Books and Materials

- Dennis C. Mueller, *Public Choice III* (2003) [Bookstore and Library Reserve]
- Foster, Ec 155 Course Packet [Course webpage]

Calendar

- Change grade option or drop w/o “W” thru Friday, 22 OCT.
- Drop w/o “F” thru Monday, 29 NOV.
- Holidays: Th, 11 NOV (Veterans); Th-F, 25-26 NOV (Thanksgiving)
- Midterm: Friday, 22 OCT, in class.
- Final: Friday, 10 DEC, 8-11 am, WLH 2111 or _____

Examinations and Grading

Midterm = 60 points; cumulative/comprehensive final = 140 points. Exams are closed book/notes. Regrade period is 1 week after papers returned. No rescheduled/make-up exams. Cheating gets you an F in course.¹

Grade Curve

<u>Gr</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
A±	Top 20%
B±	High 30%
C±	Mid 40%
D/F	Low 10%

OUTLINE/READING LIST

TOPIC 1 – INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC CHOICE	Ch. 1
TOPIC 2 – PARETO EFFICIENCY & MKT FAILURE	Ch. 2 [omit §2.4, 2.5]
TOPIC 3 – DISTRIB. EQUITY & MARKET FAILURE	Ch. 3
TOPIC 4 – SOCIAL WELFARE FUNCTIONS	Ch. 23-25
TOPIC 5 – PUBLIC CHOICE IN DIRECT DEMOCRACY	Ch. 4-7,9 [omit §5.7, 5.10, 9.4]
TOPIC 6 – REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY	Ch. 10-14
TOPIC 7 – GOVERNMENT FAILURE	Ch. 15-21
TOPIC 8 – CONSTITUTIONAL PUBLIC CHOICE	Ch. 26-27 [if time permits]

¹ I give multiple versions of tests. If you have the right answers for some other version, you are busted.