

Economic Theories of Politics

Political Science 112A Professor Sam Popkin (Spopkin@ucsd.edu)

Fall 2009 Office Hours: Wed. 3:00 – 5:00

Tues. – Thurs., 3:30 – 4:50 Solis 104 SSB Room 396

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Course Outline and Reading Assignments

The grade for this course is based on two take-home exams and a take-home final exam. The two exams will each consist of one three-page paper; the final exam will consist of two three-page papers. The paper topics will be chosen to assess your ability to integrate and synthesize the readings into a lucid, clearly presented, argument.

Maintaining Academic Integrity: Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Reading Assignments. All articles assigned are available as E-Reserves through the library. If you are on the UCSD campus or using a dial-in account provided by Academic Computing Services, e-reserves can be accessed immediately at <http://reserves.ucsd.edu/>. If you are off-campus and using AOL, Roadrunner or another ISP, you must first obtain a network password and make a few changes to your Netscape or Internet Explorer settings. Information on the procedure for off-campus access is at <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/remote.html>

I will hand out the rest of the syllabus next week. I will also post articles on my web site in cases where library regulations make it difficult to download the material in a suitable form. I will announce the URL and content when it becomes available.

Each lecture will cover the readings assigned for that day. The questions following each day's readings have been chosen to help you integrate the readings with the lectures.

Week One

Thurs. Sept. 24 Olson, Mancur. *The Logic of Collective Action* (pages 1-22 and 33-43)
[*Collective goods, collective action, and the free rider problem. Carrots and Sticks, perceptible impact and differences between small groups and large groups.*]

Week Two

Tues. Sept. 29 Popkin, Samuel "The Rational Peasant" pp. 1-23. (Note: page numbers refer to online article from "Theory and Society," not the book of same name.)
[*What kind of sharing and cooperation arrangements can solve or overcome the free-rider problem?*]

Thurs. Oct. 1 Popkin, Samuel "The Rational Peasant" pp. 23 – 62.
[*"Free-rider proof" cooperation, insurance versus welfare, collective action without central authority*]