Lectures
Tuesday & Thursday 12:00pm - 1:30pm. Please use the Zoom links on your Canvas calendar (or the Zoom tab on Canvas) to join synchronous lectures.

Instructor
Deniz Selman (denizs@econ.upenn.edu)
Office Hours: Monday 1:10pm-2:10pm and by appointment (https://upenn.zoom.us/my/deniz).

TA
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Office Hours: TBA.

Description
This course examines the effects of strategic behavior on political outcomes and government policies. Topics and applications may include voting behavior, candidate competition, voting systems, social choice and welfare, and policy divergence.

Prerequisites
Econ 1 and 2 (or Econ 10). Credit cannot be received for both Econ 32 and Econ 232.

Readings
Mandatory readings will be assigned throughout the semester. They will include both academic papers and recent news articles which are relevant to the topics we will be discussing in lecture.

Lectures
For now, lectures will be held synchronously via Zoom. It is important that you come to class prepared to participate. Watching class recordings is not a substitute for attending and participating in class.

Homework
There will be four homework assignments collected for grading during the semester. Homework assignments will be posted on Canvas one week before the due date and due at the beginning of lecture (no later than 12:05 pm) either as a hard copy or electronically, on the following due dates:
(1) Tuesday 1 February, (2) Thursday 3 March, (3) Thursday 7 April, (4) Tuesday 19 April.
No late homework assignments will be accepted. Each student must submit a personal copy for grading.

Quizzes
There will be three quizzes held during regular class time via Canvas on these dates:
(1) Thursday 3 February, (2) Thursday 17 March, (3) Thursday 21 April.
NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES: You will receive a zero for any quiz that you miss for any reason. To accommodate students who must miss a quiz, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped and the average of the other three quizzes will constitute the quiz portion of your grade.

Exams
Exam 1: Thursday 10 February (during regular class time, most likely via Canvas).
Exam 2: Thursday 24 March (during regular class time, most likely via Canvas).
Exam 3: Thursday 26 April (during regular class time, most likely via Canvas).
Exams are not cumulative: Exam 2 will only cover material from after Exam 1, and Exam 3 will only cover material from after Exam 2. There will be no final exam.
MAKE-UP POLICY FOR EXAMS: Only students who contact me before an exam and provide a written excuse will be eligible to take a make-up exam. Students who miss an exam and are not eligible to take a make-up exam will receive a grade of zero on that exam.
RE-GRADING POLICY: Students have one week from the day in which examinations and problem sets are returned to report errors in grading and/or to request that problems be re-graded. All such requests must be made in writing. If a student submits his/her exam for re-grading, then the student’s entire exam will be re-graded with no guarantee of a higher total score.
OTHER POLICIES & PROCEDURES: Apart from these stated specifics regarding quizzes and exams above, this course complies with all departmental policies as posted on the departmental website at: http://economics.sas.upenn.edu/undergraduate-program/course-information/guidelines/policies.

Grading
Homework Assignments (16%), Best Two Quizzes (15%), Three Exams (23% each).
Course Outline

0) Some basic game theoretical tools…
   (tentative)
   Strategic Behavior
   Nash Equilibrium

1) Voting Behavior: Downsian Model and Theories of Participation in Elections
   Individual Rationality and the Pivotal Voter Model
   Rule Utilitarianism and the Ethical Voter Model

2) Strategic Voting
   Voting in Multicandidate Elections: Sincere vs. Strategic Voting
   Voting with Incomplete Information: The Swing Voter’s Curse
   Herd Behavior and Information Cascades
   Application: Voting in Sequential Elections such as the U.S. Presidential Primaries

3) Electoral Competition
   Downsian Model
   Median Voter Theorem
   Condorcet Paradox

4) Electoral Rules
   Systems of Voting
   Social Choice & Social Welfare Theory: Gibbard-Satterthwaite Impossibility Theorem