

Politics 575

Formal Political Analysis 1

Princeton University, Spring 2005
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This is the first course in the department of Politics formal analysis sequence. The prerequisite for the course is Pol 502 or permission of the instructor. Pol 575 is intended to serve as a rigorous introduction to the theory of choice, the theory of choice under uncertainty, social choice theory, and non-cooperative game theory. In some quarters these topics are called positive political theory, public choice, positive political theory and rational choice theory. Other pejorative names have been used.

Your grade will be based primarily on a final exam performance. Frequent problem sets will be assigned. Problem sets count toward the final grade. More important than the direct grade effect of problem sets, it is nearly impossible to learn this material without carefully working through the problem sets. Exercising the paper option is discouraged, but students interested in grading based on a research paper can discuss this possibility with the instructor.

The teaching assistant for the class is Stuart Jordan.

The primary text for the class is an early version of *Political Game Theory*. The manuscript is available at

<http://www.princeton.edu/~ameirowi/pol575/gtbookts.pdf>

Additional readings will be distributed throughout the semester. The following is an outline of the topics covered (chapter numbers from PGT are given)

The theory of Choice (2)
Choice under uncertainty (3)
Social choice theory (4)
Games in normal form (5)
Bayesian games in normal form (6)
Extensive form games (7)
Dynamic games of incomplete information (8)
Repeated games (9)
Mechanism design (11)