Princeton University    Spring 2011
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Politics 584/Economics 576
Foundations of Political Economy

Reading List

The main readings are indicated by *.


Also on reserve is Special Interest Politics by G. Grossman and E. Helpman (MIT Press 2001), call no. JF529.G74 2001

Links to many of the papers are available by clicking on the paper title. Often, these links can be accessed only from a computer on the Princeton domain or running Princeton VPN. Other items are posted on Blackboard under Course Materials. The Blackboard web site of the course is available only to students registered for the course.

Background  Part I of PT (pp. 15 - 114) provides a review of some of the basics of voting models and electoral competition. You should (re)acquaint yourself with this material. [Chapter 2 of Grossman & Helpman has a more cursory overview of some of these topics.]

I. Taxation and Redistribution

A. Majority voting on redistributive taxes (pivotal-voter model)

*PT, chapter 2 and chapter 6 (section 6.1)


**B. Partisan models of redistribution**


**C. Alternative motivations for redistribution**

*T. Piketty, “Social Mobility and Redistributive Politics”, *Quart. J. Econ.*, 1995


A. Alesina and P. Giuliano, “Preferences for Redistribution,” NBER WP #14825, March 2009

II. Government Structure – Federalism, Secession

*A. Fiscal federalism — Introduction*

* PT Chapter 6 (sec. 6.3)


*B. Redistribution with multiple jurisdictions*

*D. Epple and T. Romer, “Mobility and Redistribution”, *J. Political Econ.*, 1991


**C. Fiscal Federalism**


**D. Integration and Secession**


III. Interest Groups, Policy-Making

*For general background; PT chapters 3-5 and chapter 7. For more detail, see Grossman & Helpman, especially chs. 7-10.

A. Competition among Groups


*A. Dixit and J. Londregan, “The Determinants of Success of Special Interests in Redistributive Politics,” J. Politics, 1996


B. Politics and Efficiency


