

POLITICAL ECONOMY SEMINAR

SPRING 2004

ECONOMICS W4921
Wednesday 4:10-6:00
467 Schermerhorn Hall

PROFESSOR DAVID EPSTEIN
Email: de11@columbia.edu
OFFICE: 706 IAB
Phone: 854-7566

TEXTS: *The Law of Democracy: Legal Structure of the Political Process*,
Samuel Issacharoff, Pamela S. Karlan, Richard H. Pildes, Lloyd J.
Mercer (R)
 2003 Supplement to The Law of Democracy
Samuel Issacharoff, Pamela S. Karlan, Richard H. Pildes, (R)
 Statistics with Stata 8, Lawrence Hamilton (O)

Note: Required = (R), Optional = (O)

This course is the senior seminar in political economy, the capstone to the Economics and Politics major. By now, you (should have!) acquired a broad background in both political science and economics; you should understand how economic systems generate resources through production and trade, both domestically and internationally, and how political systems allocate and reallocate the goods that society produces.

The purpose of the course is to give students the chance to integrate these two perspectives by writing a research paper in political economy using original data analysis. Each year we choose a different topic; this year we will do it on racial redistricting and the Voting Rights Act.

The course will be divided into a number of parts. First, up until Spring Break, we will review the legal history of the Voting Rights Act and its application in the past few decades. In the last class before Spring Break you will divide up into teams (no more than 2 each) for the final project and divide up the paper topics among the groups. After Spring Break will do a one-day review of data collection, data set management, and statistical analysis. Then you will collect and analyze your data sets, making two presentations to the class: 1) your data set and preliminary analysis; and 2) your final results. More explicit instructions on the projects and data collection will be handed out later in the semester.

Final papers are due at 5:00 PM, May 7. You should aim to make them about 20-25 pages long, plus any figures, tables and appendices.

Schedule

January 28: Black Enfranchisement

- *Giles v. Harris*
- Techniques for Outright Disenfranchisement
- The White Primary Cases
- READINGS: Issacharoff, Karlan & Pildes, 90-129

February 4: [No Class]

February 11: The 1965 Voting Rights Act

- *South Carolina v. Katzenbach*
- What Is a “Covered Change”?
- READINGS: Issacharoff, Karlan & Pildes, 546-594

February 18: Retrogression

- Discriminatory “Effect” and the Concept of Retrogression
- Discriminatory Purpose
- The Administrative Process
- READINGS: Issacharoff, Karlan & Pildes, 598-642

February 25: Redistricting and Representation: Partisan Gerrymandering

- Incomplete Protection of One Person, One Vote
- Equal Protection Constraints on Political Gerrymanders
- The *Veith* Case
- READINGS: Issacharoff, Karlan & Pildes, 598-642
IKP Supplement, 66-83
Veith materials to be handed out

March 3: Redistricting and Representation: Race-Conscious Redistricting

- *UJO v. Carey*
- *Shaw v. Reno*
- *Hunt v. Cromartie*
- Hand out list of paper topics
- READINGS: Issacharoff, Karlan & Pildes, 889-958
IKP Supplement, 84-87

March 10: Redistricting and Substantive Representation/Project Assignment

- The Emerging Academic Consensus on Districting and Representation
- *Georgia v. Ashcroft*
- Assign projects to teams
- READINGS: Cameron, Epstein & O'Halloran (1996)
Epstein & O'Halloran (2003)
IKP Supplement, 42-62

March 17: SPRING BREAK (and St. Patrick's Day)

March 24: Research Methods: Data Sets, File Management & Stata Overview

- Review Data Collection
- Find New/Alternative Data Sources
- Methods Overview
- READINGS: Statistics with Stata 8 (optional)

March 31: Data Collection [No Class]

April 7: Data Presentation Day 1

- ASSIGNMENT: Have all data collected and entered into statistical program
Describe data and sources
Present initial findings

April 14: Data Presentation Day 2

April 21: Final Presentation Day 1

- ASSIGNMENT: Review topic
Data sources and overview
Present results and conclusions from your research

April 28: Final Presentation Day 2

FINAL PAPER DUE

5:00 PM, MAY 7, 2004