The course grade will be based on marked problem sets and a term paper. The problem sets and the term paper are each worth 50 marks.

The term paper can either present original theoretical research or a critical review of some related articles. The topic of the term paper is to be determined in consultation with the instructor by March 13th. It is due on April 15th and should be between 15 and 20 pages in length (double spaced, twelve point).

Office Hours

Office hours are by appointment. While prior appointments are encouraged, if the instructor has time available, consultations can take place without an appointment.

Text

There is no text for this course, but students are encouraged to obtain copies of the books by Roth and Sotomayer and by Vohra cited in the Course Outline. Introductory expositions of many of the topics considered may be found in Wulf Gaertner, A Primer in Social Choice Theory, Revised Edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2009.

Course Outline

1. Background Material

Lecture Notes on Logic and Proofs.
Lecture Notes on Preferences and Choice Theory.
Lecture Notes on Arrow’s Theorem.

2. Majority Rule

Lecture Notes on Majority Rule.

3. Arrovian Social Choice on Economic Domains


4. Social Choice with Interpersonal Utility Comparisons

Lecture Notes on Social Welfare Functionals.


5. Uncertainty and Social Choice


6. Power and Collective Rationality


7. Judgment Aggregation


8. Matching and Market Design

Lecture Notes on One-to-One Two-Sided Matching.

9. Mechanism Design with Transfers