

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Peter Coughlin
Undergraduate TA: Justin Law

Lectures:

Section 0101: MWF, noon - 12:50pm (TYD 1118)

Section 0201: MWF, 1:00pm - 1:50pm (TYD 1118)

Course Description

There are a lot of important economic contexts where collective decisions are made by voting. This course introduces students to microeconomic models and methods that have been used to analyze voting rules. In addition, the course covers some ways in which social welfare judgments can be used to make collective decisions.

I. Pre-requisites

One course with a minimum grade of C- from (ECON 306, ECON 326) and one course with a minimum grade of C- from (ECON 230, BMGT 230, ECON 321).

II. Readings & Topics

The background readings for the course are from four books.

Three of the books are available as Online Resources at the UM Libraries' Catalog. You can get also access to the UM Libraries' links for those books through Course Reserves at ELMS.

In addition, a pdf with material from the fourth book is available through Course Reserves at ELMS.

Some recommended readings will also be available through Course Reserves at ELMS.

Topics: Getting Started; May's Conditions; Yes-No Voting Systems; Power Indices; Voting Paradoxes; Single Peakedness; Voting on Public Goods; Median Voters; Edgeworth Boxes; The Pareto Criterion; Arrow's Most Important Contribution to Public Choice; Social Choice Correspondences

III. Course Website

<http://econweb.umd.edu/~coughlin/econ451/>

Reading lists and other relevant information about the course will be on the course website.

IV. Grades

Grades will be based on quizzes.

NO extra credit will be available in this course.

Let x be your course average. Your course grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+: $100\% \geq x \geq 97\%$	A: $97\% > x \geq 94\%$	A-: $94\% > x \geq 90\%$
B+: $90\% > x \geq 87\%$	B: $87\% > x \geq 84\%$	B-: $84\% > x \geq 80\%$
C+: $80\% > x \geq 77\%$	C: $77\% > x \geq 74\%$	C-: $74\% > x \geq 70\%$
D+: $70\% > x \geq 67\%$	D: $67\% > x \geq 64\%$	D-: $64\% > x \geq 61\%$
F: $61\% > x$		

V. Quizzes

The days and times for the quizzes will be posted on the course website.

If a student with a documented physical or learning disability requires special accommodation for a quiz, appropriate accommodations can be made. The deadline for making such arrangements for a particular quiz is one week before the quiz. More specifically, documentation from ADS (Accessibility and Disability Service) must be provided one week before the quiz.

A student will be eligible to take a makeup quiz only if the student (1) misses the original quiz because of one of the legitimate reasons listed in the undergraduate catalog and (2) within one week of the missed quiz furnishes documentary support for the assertion that it was missed because of one of those reasons.

If a student misses a quiz and the subsequent makeup quiz (and can document that both resulted from legitimate reasons), the weight that would have been given to that quiz will be added to the weight used for the student's other quizzes.

VII. University Policies

Policies relevant to ALL undergraduate courses are available at:

<https://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Topics addressed include academic integrity, student and instructor conduct, accessibility and accommodations, attendance and excused absences, grades and appeals, copyright and intellectual property. Every student is expected to understand and uphold these policies which elaborate your rights and responsibilities; ignorance of the policies is not an acceptable excuse. Students will also find on this page information about valuable resources to support academic success in this course, as well as overall health and well-being.