

Seminar on Public Choice
公共選擇專題授課大綱
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Instructor

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Course Description

Public choice is recognized as an application of economic tools to study the problems in the province of political science. A more general term “Political Economy” also refers to the same discipline. An overlapping formulation with a different focus is called “Positive Political Theory”. A key formulation of public choice is in terms of rational choice, the agent-based proportioning of scarce means to given ends. In particular, their study to the behavior of voters, politicians, and government officials is as self-interested agents.

This course is to introduce the masterpieces of earliest public choice theorists. Since it is not designed to explain the concept in mathematic approach, there is no prerequisite. An introductory economics and algebra however is desired.

Required Readings

Arrow, Kenneth J. (1951), *Social Choice and Individual Values*. Yale University Press.

Buchanan, James M. and Gordon Tullock. (1962), *The Calculus of Consent*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Downs, Anthony. (1957), *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Cambridge: York: Cambridge University Press.

Niskanen, W. A. (1971), *Bureaucracy and Representative Government*. Aldine Transaction.

Olson, Mancur, Jr. (1965) *The Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Recommend Readings

Black, Duncan (1958), *The Theory of Committees and Elections*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Niskanen, W. A. (1987) "Bureaucracy." In Charles K. Rowley ed. *Democracy and Public Choice*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

徐仁輝 陳敦源 黃光雄譯 (2005) *政府失靈：公共選擇的初探*，智勝出版社。

Reading Memo

Each student will be assigned the readings and make the presentation, based on the numbers of students registered. Although one to two students are responsible for presenting the assignments in each week, I expect all students read the material and participate in the class discussion. Every student also needs to prepare a reading memo once the assigned book is finished discussing.

Grading

Participation	30%
Assigned presentation	40%
Reading memo	30%