Instructor Uzi Segal.

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Lectures Wednesday 12:00–3:00, Conference room. The lecture of Sept. 23 will be given on Sept. 21.

Office Hours Wed 3–4 or by appointment. I strongly advise you not to wait for the office hour, and if you have a question to send me an email right away. Please follow these guidelines:

1. Use your BC account.
2. Have Econ 3331 in the subject line.
3. One question per letter. If you have 5 question, please send them in 5 emails.
4. If you have a question about slides or an article, please attach it to your mail.
5. If you didn’t understand my answer, please let me know ASAP. No need to reply if you understood my answer unless I explicitly ask you to do so.

Structure This is a small class and the course will be given as a seminar. This means the following. Although parts of the meetings will be devoted to lectures, a large part of each meeting will be a discussion of what you read before class.

Readings Mostly articles. Every week you will be asked to read one or two papers, which will be discussed in class.

There are many relevant books. Two are particularly relevant:

You don’t have to buy these books but we will often refer to them, and Kamm’s book is an excellent source for topics for your paper.

**Problem Sets** Occasional collection of questions.

**Your Obligations** Your responsibilities are these:

1. Attend the meetings. If you cannot attend a meeting let me know in advance (by email).
2. Read the papers.
3. Discuss them in class.
4. Solve the problem sets.
5. Write a paper.
6. Present your paper in class.

**Grades** Will be based on your class performance (20%), your paper (50%) and your presentation (30%). Your paper will have two parts. In the first part you will summarize some literature on a topic which you and I will choose together. In the second part you will apply it to a current social issue. If possible, this issue will be related to your home state or country. Here too we will have to discuss and agree on the topic. Your typed paper will be about 3000 words long.

**Timeline** Please take these deadlines seriously. It will save you a lot of stress if you’ll do things on time.

Before Sept. 29: You’ll look at Kamm’s book and get some idea about which of the many topics discussed in the book you’d like to choose for your paper.

Sept. 30, 3–5: Meetings with me in which we’ll discuss your ideas for a paper.

Before Oct. 12: You’ll send me a one-page outline of the literature survey part of your paper.
Oct. 14, 3–5: Meetings with me in which we’ll discuss these outlines.

Oct. 28: Submission of the first part of the paper. It will be graded, but you’ll be able to improve your grade if you’ll revise it according to my comments on it.

Nov. 4, 3–5: Meetings with me in which we’ll agree on the issue you’ll discuss in the second part of your paper.

Dec. 2&9: Class presentations. Each presentation will be of 20 minutes plus 5 minutes of discussion.

Dec. 20: Submission of final paper.

We’ll discuss the following issues.

• The need for social choice theory.
• Arrow’s theorem.
• The Paretian liberal.
• Utilitarianism:
  1. Aggregation.
  2. Behind the veil of ignorance.
• Expected utility theory, its axioms, and its relevance to social choice theory.
• Interpesonal comparisons of utility: Problems and some solutions.
• Preferences for randomization (social lotteries).
• Ex post and ex ante anlysis.
• The trolley problem.
• Should the numbers count?
If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan, (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-3470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu, in the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.