Instructor  Uzi Segal.
Office    Maloney 391B.
Phone    x21567.
E-mail segalu@bc.edu

Lectures  Monday 12:00–3:00, Conference room. The lecture of Sept. 29 will be given on Oct. 1.

Office Hours Mon 3–4 or by appointment. I strongly advise you not to wait to 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 5000 words long and will have to be submitted **electronically** before Dec. 24.

If you’ll submit it by Dec. 15 I’ll read it and ask you a question about it. You will then be able to answer it and add up to 5 points to your paper grade. I’ll give you detailed guidelines for writing the paper towards the middle of the term. You will have to find a topic and obtain my agreement to it not later than November 17, but you are encouraged to find a topic by the beginning of November.

**Topics** 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.
• Interpersonal comparisons of utility: Problems and some solutions.
• Preferences for randomization (social lotteries).
• Ex post and ex ante analysis.
• 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.