PITZER COLLEGE  
Math 11/POST 111: THEORIES OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS  
Fall 2006, Tues/Thurs 1:15-2:30pm, BH 210

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Course Website:  
http://pzacad.pitzer.edu/~jhoste/HosteWebPages/Courses/Math11web/main.html

Office hours: Hoste: M 4-5, Th 3-4, F 1:30-2:30; Sullivan: MW 9:15-1:15

In this course we will analyze various voting procedures (majority rule, Borda counts,  
instant runoff voting, proportional representation, etc.) as well as ways of assessing  
voting power and other kinds of power. We will also consider the U. S. Electoral College,  
the use of the initiative in California and the election for governor in California. This  
course satisfies Pitzer’s formal reasoning objective

Each student will engage in the following activities this semester, counting as shown  
towards the final grade:

- Class attendance 5%
- 10 homeworks (@3 points each) 30
- Short (5 page) Term Paper 15
- Class Presentation 10
- Midterm Exam: Oct 12 (tentative) 15
- Final Exam: Dec 14, 2:00pm 25
- Total 100%

The following required texts are available at Huntley Bookstore:


333-80162-8, PAPER

Steven Hill, 10 Steps to Repair American Democracy, PoliPointPress, ISBN: 0-9760621-  
5-1. PAPER

Topics to be covered will fall into basically three parts. We hope to cover all three parts.  
We will certainly cover Parts 1 and 2, and will cover Part 3 if time permits. See the  
website for a tentative schedule.

Part 1: Voting Systems and Arrow’s Theorem. Chapters 1-5 in Hodge, Chapters 1-6 in  
Farrell, and Chapters 1-5 in Hill.
Part 2: The Electoral College, and Other US Aspects. Chapters 8-10 in Hodge and Chapters 6-10 in Hill.


Specific reading and homework assignments for each coming week will be announced in class. (See also the website for a tentative schedule.) In addition to the three required texts, readings may be drawn from other sources if time permits. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments.

The last two or three class meetings will be used for student presentations. Each presentation will be 10 minutes long and will be on the subject of the Short Term Paper. All term papers are due on the first day of class presentations.

**Important Dates:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11</td>
<td>Last day to drop courses without course fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Lecture by Donald Saari, Millikan 134, Pomona 4:15 pm. Note special day and location!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 16, 17</td>
<td>Fall break</td>
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<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>No Class Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Special Lecture by Steven Hill, 2 pm, location tba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>Final day to drop courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Final day to drop as “W”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>2 pm, Final Exam</td>
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**Note On Class Attendance:** As noted above, class attendance is mandatory. Conflicts and crises do occur and there will be times when you must miss class. Thus, you can miss two class sessions without cost. For each class above two that you miss, you will lose one point from your attendance score.

**Note On Homework:** You must do your own homework. We will accept late homework but your grade will be reduced \( \frac{1}{2} \) grade for each day late. There will be NO make-up exams. Students who know in advance that they must miss an exam for legitimate reasons should discuss their situation with Professors Hoste and Sullivan.