Economics 895
Experimental Public Choice
Department of Economics
George Mason University
Spring 2011

Thomas Stratmann
Office hours: Tuesday, 2-3pm, Carow Hall, Fairfax Campus
Phone: 703.993.2317
email: tstratma@gmu.edu

Time and Place: 1:30 pm - 4:10 pm; Arlington: Founders Hall 470

Class home page:
courses.gmu.edu

Course Rationale:
Experimental Public Choice is an emerging field in economics. Although public choice has been tested in the lab here or there for many years, recently there has been a large increase in interest and volume of papers. Here at George Mason University, we are particularly well situated to contribute to this research given that Mason is the home of public choice research and has an excellent experimental group.

Course Theme and Objective:
The course is designed to familiarize student with current work in experimental public choice.

The course is designed help students advance to a stage where they can begin work on a dissertation or research paper in experimental public choice.

Office Hours:
Tuesdays, 2:00pm - 3:30pm, at Carow Hall, and by appointment. If you have a question, please feel free to contact me at tstratma@gmu.edu.

Evaluations:
Grades for the course will be based on class participation and on your presentations (50%) as well as your proposal for an experimental design (50%).

To help foster the ability do academic research in a timely fashion, this class will have two writing assignments. The first is a 5-page minimum double-spaced research proposal. The proposal is due early-March. The proposal should outline the research question, identify why this is an interesting topic, outline the current literature on the topic, and identify how you will answer the question with an experiment. The topic must be in public choice. Your final research proposal that includes an experimental design is due the last day of classes.
Reading List

Experiments in Public Choice

Review paper:

Houser, Daniel and Thomas Stratmann, " Gordon Tullock and Experimental Economics" Public Choice, Forthcoming

Markets for votes

Rent seeking


Sheremeta, R. (2009a), Experimental comparison of multi-stage and one-stage contest, working paper.


Voting in committees and in elections


Deception and strategic behavior in elections

Daniel Houser, Sandra Ludwig, Thomas Stratmann, Does deceptive advertising reduce political participation? Theory and evidence August, 2009


Turnout


Candidate attributes

Law and Economics

Review paper:


Miscellaneous topics

