

**Leiden University**  
Department of Political Science  
MA Political Science program

**Rational Choice Theory (conversion course)**  
Fall 2005

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00-12:00

Course meetings: 15:00-17:00 Thursdays, 3 Nov. - 1 Dec., room Ch06

**Description**

This course is intended for students in the MA Political Science program who have earned their first degree outside of Leiden's Political Science department. The purpose is to provide a brief introduction to the main theories and tools of rational choice in political science.

We will use excerpts from a number of texts; I will make them available to you. We will also read articles that are available through the University library (marked \* below).

**Reading for the second meeting (Nov. 10):**

\* Mancur Olson, "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development," *American Political Science Review* 87/3 (September 1993): 567-576.

Michael Taylor, *The Possibility of Cooperation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987), ch. 1, 3, 6, 7.

**Reading for the third meeting (Nov. 17):**

Robert Gibbons, *Game Theory for Applied Economists* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992), pp. 1-20, 28-33, 48-64, 68-79, 115-131.

\* Susan C. Stokes, "Perverse Accountability: A Formal Model of Machine Politics with Evidence from Argentina," *American Political Science Review* 99/3 (August 2005): 315-325.

**Reading for the fourth meeting (Nov. 24):**

Kenneth A. Shepsle and Mark S. Bonchek, *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions* (New York: Norton, 1997), ch. 5

\* Edward D. Mansfield, Helen V. Milner, and B. Peter Rosendorff, "Free to Trade: Democracies, Autocracies, and International Trade," *American Political Science Review* 94/2 (June 2000): 305-321.