

Sociology 125. Outline Lectures 19 & 20

DEMOCRACY: HOW IT WORKS

Wednesday, November 15 and Monday, November 20, 2006

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. Democracy as an ideal & a reality**
- 2. Two basic facts**
- 3. Constraints on Democraticness of Democracy**

II. THE DEMAND CONSTRAINT

- 1. The question**
- 2. Basic argument:** the “rules of the game”
- 3. The causal process**
- 4. Implications**

III. RESOURCE CONSTRAINT

- 1. The Basic Idea**
- 2. Some examples**
- 3. RATIONAL IGNORANCE**
- 4. FREE RIDER PROBLEM**
 - 4.1 Review: The prisoners dilemma and Public Goods**
 - 4.2 Collective action & Free Riding in Democracy**
 - 4.3 QUESTION: WHY DO PEOPLE BOTHER TO VOTE?**
 - 4.4 How do our Political Institutions affect this problem?**