The casebook for this course is *The Law of Democracy: Legal Regulation of the Political Process* (revised 2nd ed. 2002) (“CB”), by Samuel Issacharoff, Pamela Karlan, and Richard Pildes. The only difference between the revised 2nd ed. and the 2nd ed. is that the former includes technical changes to the Table of Cases and Index that make those items substantially more accurate. In addition to the CB, you will need the 2006 Supplement (“S”) to the casebook. The Supplement includes essential material and we will use it extensively. Students are expected to be present and prepared.

We will move through the syllabus in order at a pace of about 30-40 pages per class meeting. One assignment on this syllabus does not necessarily correspond to one class session. I will also make adjustments to the syllabus to reflect the development of the course over the semester, as well as external events that might arise.

For the first class, please read CB 1-15.

My office is Vanderbilt Hall 507. My office hours will be Monday and Thursday 11-12.

**Syllabus**

A. **Introduction**

   CB 1-15
   CB 1089-99 [background]

B. **The Right to Participate**

   1. Background Principles CB 16-26; 38-46
   2. Individual Rights CB 46-72
   3. Race and the Vote CB 90-129

C. **Reapportionment**

   1. One person, one vote CB 141-85, S 15-17
   2. Equal population and unique institutions CB 185-216

D. **Political Parties**

   1. Ballot access CB 345-73
   3. Political lockups CB 417-48

E. **Redistricting and Representation I**
1. Partisan Gerrymandering CB 1156-60, 867-889, S 156-97
2. Political Competition S 197-208; 208-218

F. Campaign Finance

1. *Buckley v. Valeo* and the rise of soft money CB 449-60
2. Regulatory Regimes CB 460-513
3. Equality and Liberty CB 513-45; S 33-64
4. *McConnell v. FEC* S 64-78

G. Vote Dilution and Substantive Claims

1. Constitutional Doctrine CB 672-713
2. Congressional Power to Respond CB 713-745
3. Legal Regulation of Voting Outcomes CB 746-76, 813-23
4. Law and Politics S 79-102; 115-135; 148 (note)

H. Redistricting and Representation II

1. Racial Gerrymandering CB 1160-72, 889-924
2. Continued CB 946-958

I. The Future of the Voting Rights Act

1. Congressional Power CB 546-71, 859-66, Materials to be Provided
2. The 2006 VRA Renewal Materials to be Provided

J. Disputed Elections

1. Background CB 242-262
2. State/Federal Issues CB 262-281
3. *Bush v. Gore* CB 281-315