TEXTBOOKS AND LECTURES

Textbook Criteria

The choice of the textbook for your spring quarter introductory course is the single most important decision you'll make this quarter. Because the book order must be made very early in winter quarter—sometimes the due date is even before the first 390A meeting—you have to make a quick but wise decision. Therefore, below I provide you with some useful criteria:

1. The textbook should be more suitable for quarters than for semesters or years. That means that the text is thin enough that all chapters can be reasonably assigned for 10 weeks of reading. Students don't like wasting big money on superfluous chapters.
2. The text should be suitable for University of California students rather than high school or community college courses. Hence, the level of sophistication must be correct.
3. Assuming that the chapters are roughly equal in length—which is often the case by design—the total number of chapters should be divisible by 4 so that each of you can be responsible for the same number of lectures. This is both an equity issue and a didactic one. Each you thus obtain an equal amount of teaching practice.
4. The book should have already gone through two or more editions. Many textbooks do not make it because the market is already flooded. You don't want to use a text that might be out of print by the time you solo your own introductory course.
5. The textbook should be up-to-date, with a recent publication date and current references.
6. The text's coverage of your own specialty area should be excellent so that you have a good idea about whether you'll avoid having to qualify or correct the text in lecture. Also, if the text authors are not specialists in that particular area, that's a very good sign.

Textbook Selection

Author(s) _____

Title _____

Publisher _____

Date _____ *Edition* _____ *ISBN* _____

Internet URL _____

Spring PSC 1 Section: _____

Lecture Assignments

Instructor Name   *Chapters Chosen*

1. _____   ___/___/___/___/___/___/___/___/
2. _____   ___/___/___/___/___/___/___/___/
3. _____   ___/___/___/___/___/___/___/___/
4. _____   ___/___/___/___/___/___/___/___/