

1056-J1-247

Karen Saxe* (saxe@macalester.edu), Dept of Mathematics and Computer Science, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. *Quantitative Approaches to Problems in Democracy.*

In this talk I will give an overview of a course I teach on what might be called “Quantitative Approaches to Problems in Democracy.” The course covers the mathematics behind some of the basic problems of elections and voting, and includes apportionment, redistricting, and an introduction to several electoral systems used around the world. The course is intended for future political leaders, and most students are majors in political science, or international studies. Throughout the course, topics are presented in context, and pros and cons are always debated. I will give a detailed outline of topics covered, an overview of the assignments, and share my views about why I think this is a good course for liberal arts students. (Received August 19, 2009)