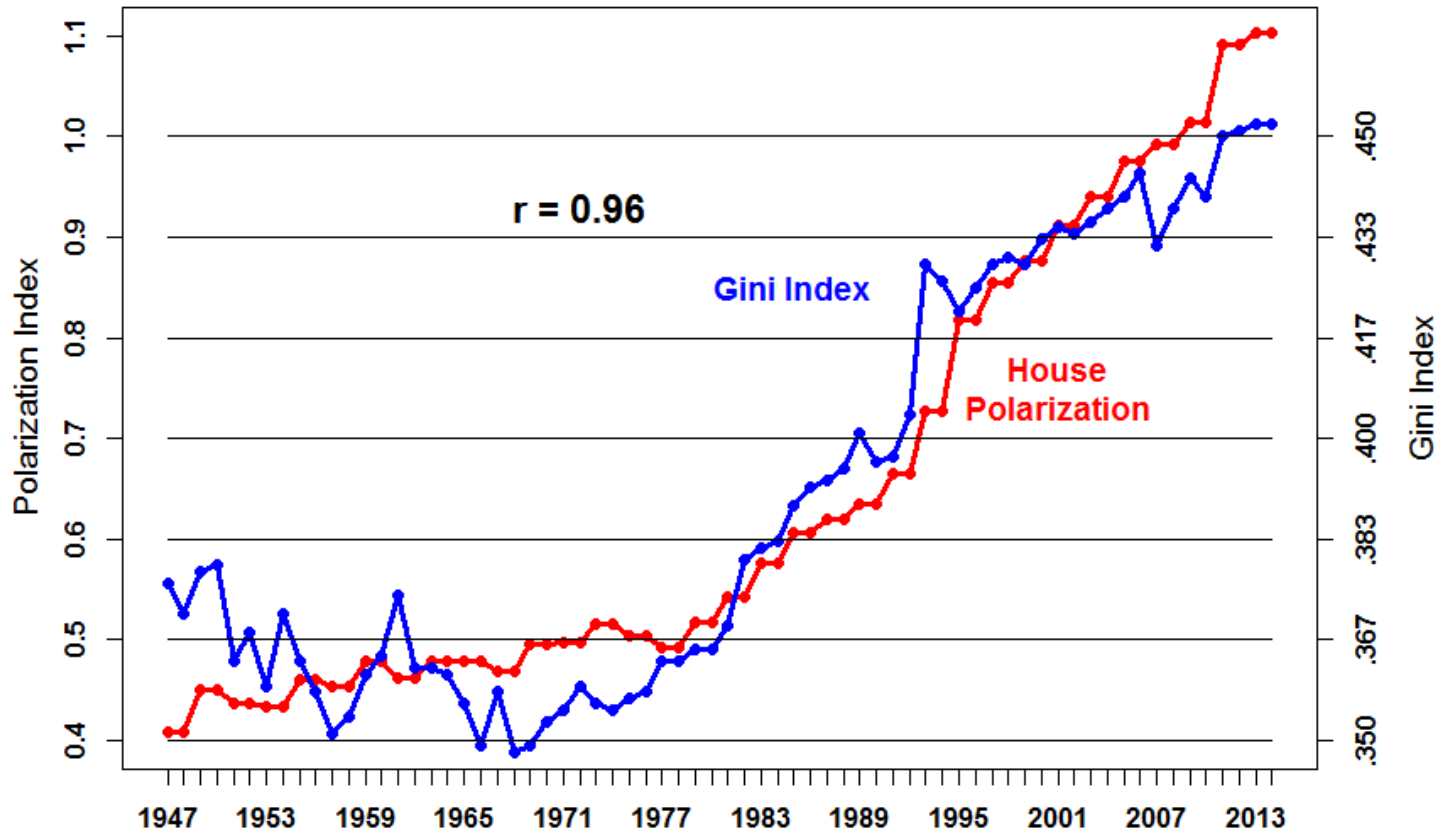


Income Inequality and Political Polarization 1947 - 2014



POLS 4635 THE POLITICS OF INCOME INEQUALITY

Spring Semester AY2017-2018
Department of Political Science
University of Georgia
Athens, GA, 30602-1615

Classroom: Room 301, Baldwin Hall
Time: 3:35 - 4:25PM Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Instructor: **Keith T. Poole**

Office: Room 304D Baldwin Hall
E-Mail: ktpoole@uga.edu
WebSite: [k7moa Home Page](#)

Office Hours: By Appointment

The following texts will be used in this course:

- [The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 27 No. 3 \(Summer 2013\)](#)
- James K. Galbraith. 2016. *Inequality: What Everyone Needs to Know*
- Nolan McCarty, Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 2013. *Political Bubbles: Financial Crises and the Failure of American Democracy*

Requirements

Grades will be determined by three examinations -- two mid-semester exams and a final exam. The exams will be Multiple Choice. The midterms will be worth $\frac{1}{4}$ each and the final $\frac{1}{2}$ of the course grade.

The Multiple Choice exams will be about 25-30 questions each for the Midterms and 40-50 questions for the final. They will be straightforward with no "tricks".

The **first exam** is scheduled for Friday, 16 February 2018 , 3:35 - 4:25PM.

The **second exam** is scheduled for Friday, 30 March 2018, 3:35 - 4:25PM.

The **final** is scheduled for Monday, 30 April 2018, 3:30 - 5:30PM.

Course Outline

1. Congressional Polarization

Assignment:

- ["Measuring Ideology"](#)
- ["The Decline and Rise of Party Polarization in Congress During the Twentieth Century." Extensions, Fall 2005.](#)
- ["The Roots of the Polarization of Modern U. S. Politics." Revista de Ciencia Política, December, 2008.](#)
- [Growing Apart: The Mathematical Evidence for Congress' Growing Polarization](#), by Jordan Ellenberg
(Note that the links to voteview.uh.edu should be k7moa.com. The pages are still on the website.)
 - [Brief Overview of the State of Income Inequality \(PowerPoint\)](#)
 - [IRS Tax Tables Page](#)
 - [Public Debt Statements](#)
 - [CBO: Summary of the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2016 to 2026](#)
 - [Measuring Ideology \(PowerPoint\)](#)

2. The Basics of Income Inequality in the US since the end of World War II

Assignment:

- *Inequality*, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2
- *JEP*, "The Top 1 Percent in International and Historical Perspective"
- *JEP*, "Defending the 1 Percent"
 - [Civil Rights and the Realignment of the South \(PowerPoint\)](#)
 - [JEP Papers 1 and 2 \(PowerPoint\)](#)

SOURCES:

- [Federal Reserve Bulletin: "Changes in U.S. Family Finances from 2010 to 2016: Evidence from the](#)

Survey of Consumer Finances."

- **Rutgers: John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development: "Unfulfilled Expectations: Recent College Graduates Struggle in a Troubled Economy."**
- **Institute for Women's Policy Research: "The Gender Wage Gap by Occupation 2016 and by Race and Ethnicity."**
- **"The American High School Graduation Rate: Trends and Levels." James J. Heckman and Paul A. LaFontaine, Discussion Paper 3216, December 2007, Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn, Germany**
- **"Skill Gaps, Skill Shortages and Skill Mismatches: Evidence for the U.S.", Peter Cappelli, NBER WP20382, August 2014**
- **"Polanyi's Paradox and the Shape of Employment Growth." David H. Autor, MIT.**
- **"Trends in Educational Assortative Marriage From 1940 to 2003." Christine R. Schwartz and Robert D. Mare, California Center for Population Research, UCLA**
- **"The End of Men and Rise of Women in the High Skilled Labor Market." Guido Cortes, Nir Jaimovich, and Henry Sin, September 2016.**
- **"Consumer Bankruptcy Filings: Trends and Indicators." Charles J. Tabb, Illinois Law and Economics WP Series No. LE06-023, University of Illinois College of Law.**
- **"Deaths of Despair and Support for Trump in the 2016 Presidential Election." Shannon M. Monnat, Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education, Pennsylvania State University, 2016.**
- **"Wealth Inequality Among Asian Americans Greater Than Among Whites." Christian E. Weller and Jeffrey Thompson. Center for American Progress.**
- **"Our Miserable 21st Century", Nicholas Eberstadt, *Commentary Magazine*, March 2017.**
- **"Men Without Work: America's Invisible Crisis." By Christopher Caldwell. 2016.**

3. The Financial Crisis of 2007-08 and the Great Recession**Assignment:**

- **Political Bubbles, entire book**
- **Inequality, Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6**
- **When I was Your Age: Millennials and the Generational Wage Gap, by Brendan Duke, Center for American Progress**
 - **What we know so far (PowerPoint)**
 - **The Rise of the Robots (PowerPoint)**
 - **MP3 file of Robots lecture (MP3)**
 - **Wall Street Journal Article on the Tech Boom and Jobs, 13 October 2016 (PowerPoint)**
 - **The Financial Crisis of 2007-08, Part 1 (PowerPoint)**
 - **The Financial Crisis of 2007-08, Part 2 (PowerPoint)**
 - **The Financial Crisis of 2007-08, Part 3 (PowerPoint)**

4. Is Immigration to Blame?**Assignment:**

- **Inequality, Chapters 7 and 8**
 - **Inequality and Immigration (PowerPoint)**

5. Education, Job Skills, and Globalization**Assignment:**

- **JEP, "It's the Market: The Broad-Based Rise in the Return to Top Talent."**
- **JEP, "The Pay of Corporate Executives and Financial Professionals as Evidence of Rents in Top 1 Percent Incomes."**

- *JEP*, "Income Inequality, Equality of Opportunity, and Intergenerational Mobility."
- [The Evolving Structure of the American Economy and the Employment Challenge](#), Michael Spence and Sandile Hlatshwayo, 2011, Council on Foreign Relations

● [Income Inequality, Education, and Free Trade \(PowerPoint\)](#)

6. Money, Organized Interests, and American Politics

Assignment:

- *Inequality*, Chapters 9, 10, and 11
- *JEP*, "Why Hasn't Democracy Slowed Rising Inequality?"

● [Money and The Ruling Elite \(PowerPoint\)](#)

Site Links

- [VOTEVIEW Blog](#)
 - [NOMINATE Data, Roll Call Data, and Software](#)
 - [Course Web Pages: University of Georgia \(2010 - \)](#)
 - [Course Web Pages: UC San Diego \(2004 - 2010\)](#)
 - [University of San Diego Law School \(2005\)](#)
 - [Course Web Pages: University of Houston \(2000 - 2005\)](#)
 - [Course Web Pages: Carnegie-Mellon University \(1997 - 2000\)](#)
 - [Analyzing Spatial Models of Choice and Judgment with R](#)
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