POLS 4635 THE POLITICS OF INCOME INEQUALITY

Fall Semester AY2016-2017
Department of Political Science
University of Georgia
Athens, GA, 30602-1615

Classroom: Room 309, Sanford Hall
Time: 3:35 - 4:25PM Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Instructor: Keith T. Poole

Office: Room 304D Baldwin Hall
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WebSite: Voteview 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)*
- Timothy Noah. 2012. *The Great Divergence*

Requirements

Grades will be determined by three examinations -- two mid-semester exams and a final exam. The exams will consist of short answer essay questions. The midterms will be worth ¼ each and the final 1/2 of the course grade.
The first exam is scheduled for Friday, 23 September 2016, 3:35 - 4:25PM.
The second exam is scheduled for Friday, 21 October 2016, 3:35 - 4:25PM.
The final is scheduled for Monday 12 December 2016, 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.
   - Growing Apart: The Mathematical Evidence for Congress' Growing Polarization, by Jordan Ellenberg
     (Note that the links to voteview.uh.edu should be pooleandrosenthal.com. The pages are still on the website.)

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

   Assignment:

   - The Price of Inequality, pages ix - lxiv
   - The Great Divergence, Introduction and Chapters 1, 2 and 3
   - JEP, "The Top 1 Percent in International and Historical Perspective"
   - JEP, "Defending the 1 Percent"

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

   Assignment:

   - Political Bubbles, entire book
   - The Price of Inequality, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6

4. Is Immigration to Blame?

   Assignment:
5. Education, Job Skills, and Globalization

Assignment:

- *The Great Divergence*, Chapters 5 and 6
- *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."

6. Money, Organized Interests, and American Politics

Assignment:

- *The Price of Inequality*, Chapters 5, and 7
- *The Great Divergence*, Chapters 7 and 8
- *JEP*, "Why Hasn’t Democracy Slowed Rising Inequality?"

7. Citizen Affluence and Public Policy

Assignment:

- *The Price of Inequality*, Chapters 8, and 9
- *The Great Divergence*, Chapter 9

8. The Public Policy Consequences of Polarization and Inequality

Assignment:

- *The Price of Inequality*, Chapter 10
- *The Great Divergence*, Chapters 10, 11, and Afterword