

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
E-Mail: ktpoole@uga.edu
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)**
- **Joseph E. Stiglitz. 2013. *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future* (2nd Edition)**
- **Timothy Noah. 2012. *The Great Divergence***
- **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 consist of short answer essay questions. The midterms will be worth $\frac{1}{4}$ each and the final $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.
- "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 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:

- *The Great Divergence*, Chapter 4

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."
- The Evolving Structure of the American Economy and the Employment Challenge, Michael Spence and Sandile Hlatshwayo, 2011, Council on Foreign Relations

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
- "Wealth Inequality in the United States Since 1913: Evidence From Capitalized Income Tax Data." *NBER Working Paper 20625, October 2014.*

8. The Public Policy Consequences of Polarization and Inequality

Assignment:

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

- **"Income Inequality and Political Polarization: Time Series Evidence Over Nine Decades."** *Review of Income and Wealth (forthcoming)*