

POLS 4635 THE POLITICS OF INCOME INEQUALITY

Spring Semester AY2019-2020
Department of Political Science
University of Georgia
Athens, GA, 30602-1615

Classroom: 221 LeConte Hall
Time: 2:30 - 3:20PM 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*

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, 27 September 2019, 2:30 - 3:20PM.

The **second exam** is scheduled for Friday, 15 November 2019, 2:30 - 3:20PM.

The **final** is scheduled for Friday, 6 December 2019, 3:30 - 5:30PM.

[Example Questions for the First Exam](#)

[Example Questions for the Second Exam](#)

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 \(PowerPoint\)](#)
- [SOIRS Tax Tables Page](#)
- [Public Debt Statements](#)
- [CBO: Summary of the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2017 to 2027](#)
- [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 \(PowerPoint\)](#)
- [Federal Reserve Bulletin on U.S. Family Finances \(PowerPoint\)](#)
- [Black-White Inequality \(Powerpoint\)](#)
- [Gender, Race, and Wage Inequality \(PowerPoint\)](#)

SOURCES:

- [The Daily 202: A senator from Michigan will propose a National Institute of Manufacturing modeled on NIH](#), by James Hohmann, Washington Post, 17 June 2019
- [Even as the US Economy Produces More Jobs and Higher Wages, Somehow Capitalism Stays Broken. Weird](#), by James Pethokoukis, Ricochet, 13 June 2019
- [America Can Do Big Things: A Budget Plan for a Better Future](#), By Seth Hanlon, Alexandra Thornton, Sara Estep, and Galen Hendricks, Center for American Progress 11 June 2019
- [Ending Special Tax Treatment for the Very Wealthy](#), By Alexandra Thornton and Galen Hendricks, Center for American Progress 4 June 2019.
- [Labor Participation Rate and Opioid Addiction](#), by Paul Krueger, 6 February 2019
- [Minimum-Wage Workers Have Lost Nearly a Year's Salary to Inflation. by Rachel West](#), 7 February 2019, Center for American Progress.
- [Here's How Much America's Rising Income Inequality Is Costing Social Security. by Rachel West](#), 14 February 2019, Center for American Progress.
- [Federal Reserve Bulletin: "Changes in U.S. Family Finances from 2010 to 2016: Evidence from the Survey of Consumer Finances."](#)
- [Systematic Inequality: How America's Structural Racism Helped Create the Black-White Wealth Gap." By Angela Hanks, Danyelle Solomon, and Christian E. Weller](#), 21 February 2018, Center for American Progress.
- [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:

- [5 Regulatory Questions for Federal Reserve Chairman Jay Powell](#), by Gregg Gelzins, 26 February 26, Center for American Progress
- *Political Bubbles*, entire book
- *Inequality*, Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6
 - [What we know so far \(PowerPoint\)](#)
 - [A Major Advance in Quantum Computing](#)
 - [Neural Net Computer now GO champion](#)
 - [An Important Advance in Computer Chip Design](#)
 - [The Rise of the Robots \(PowerPoint\)](#)
 - [MP3 file of Robots lecture \(MP3\)](#)
 - [Deep Blue Chess Computer](#)
 - [In 10 years will this be SkyNet?](#)
 - [Current \(2017\) Listing of fastest SuperComputers in the World](#)
 - [Income Inequality and the Rise of High Technology \(PowerPoint\)](#)
 - [The public attitudes on Science \(PowerPoint\)](#)

- [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 \(PowerPoint\)](#)