

POLI 7903
Special Topics in American Politics:
Seminar in American Political Economy

Fall 2018

James Garand
Emogene Pliner Distinguished Professor
Stubbs 212

2. **Class Participation.** Class participation and preparedness are major components of evaluation in graduate seminars. Each student will be evaluated on the basis of the quality of informed participation and contribution to seminar discussion. Specifically, each student is expected (1) to attend every seminar meeting, (2) to have read and reflected upon all assigned readings before class, and (3) to be prepared to discuss critically the issues raised in the literature during the seminar meeting. Contributions to seminar discussion will be evaluated on the basis of both quantity and quality of informed discussion. A class participation grade of 0 will be assigned to students who have an unexcused absence from class on a given day.

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

| | |
|----|---------------|
| A+ | 97.5% - 100% |
| A | 92.5% - 97.5% |
| A- | 89.5% - 92.5% |
| B+ | 87.5% - 89.5% |
| B | 82.5% - 87.5% |
| B- | 79.5% - 82.5% |
| C+ | 77.5% - 89.5% |
| C | 72.5% - 77.5% |
| C- | 69.5% - 72.5% |
| D+ | 67.5% - 69.5% |
| D | 62.5% - 67.5% |
| D- | 59.5% - 62.5% |
| F | Below 59.5% |

Readings

We will read the following books this semester. These books will be read in the following order during the semester:

Larry Bartels
Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age
 ISBN 978-0-691-13663-9
 Princeton University Press

Nolan McCarty, Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal
Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches
 ISBN 978-0-262-63361-1
 MIT Press

Spencer Piston
Class Attitudes in America: Sympathy for the Poor, Resentment of the Rich, and Political Implications
 ISBN 978-1-108-44712-6
 Cambridge University Press

In addition to the books ordered for the seminar, there is a sizable set of additional articles and book chapters that will be required reading for the seminar. All additional readings are listed on the following semester outline. These readings will be made available to students electronically so that arrangements can be made for downloading and printing.

I have also provided you with a separate document that includes a full bibliography for this class. Readings on the seminar bibliography are divided into two categories. First are those readings required of all students; these are denoted with an asterisk (*). Second are supplemental readings, which may be read depending on each student's interest and inclination. In particular, these supplemental readings can be particularly helpful in providing a good start on relevant literature for the required seminar paper.

Office Hours

Monday morning, 9:30 – 11:00

Other hours by appointment

Course Moodle Page

I have created a Moodle page for this course. The site will include the course syllabus, bibliography, and all of the readings for the course. The course Moodle web site can be found by logging on to your PAWS account.

Academic Misconduct Statement

Academic misconduct is defined by the Code of Student Conduct. You are encouraged to familiarize

About the Instructor

James C. Garand (Ph.D., University of Kentucky, 1984) is the Emogene Pliner Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Louisiana State University.

Professor Garand has teaching and research interests in the fields of legislative politics, electoral politics, public opinion, public policy, state politics, racial and ethnic politics, domestic political economy, and research methodology and statistics. His research on a wide range of topics in American politics has been published in numerous journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*,

Schedule of Class Meetings

| | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| August | 23 | Introduction to American Political Economy |
| | 30 | Politics and Macroeconomic Outcomes |
| September | 6 | Politics and Macroeconomic Outcomes |
| | 13 | Public Reactions to the Economy |
| | 20 | Public Reactions to the Economy |
| | 27 | Public Reactions to the Economy |
| October | 4 | Fall Holiday (no class meeting) |
| | 11 | The Size and Growth of the Public Sector |
| | 18 | The Size and Growth of the Public Sector |
| | 25 | The Size and Growth of the Public Sector / The Politics of Income Inequality |
| November | 1 | The Politics of Income Inequality |
| | 8 | The Politics of Income Inequality |
| | 15 | The Politics of Income Inequality |
| | 22 | Thanksgiving Holiday (no class meeting) |
| | 29 | The Politics of Income Inequality |
| December | 7 | Seminar paper due |

The following represent journal abbreviations that may be found in this outline:

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|-------------|--|
| <i>APSR</i> | <i>American Political Science Review</i> |
| <i>AJPS</i> | <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> |
| <i>JOP</i> | <i>Journal of Politics</i> |
| <i>LSQ</i> | <i>Legislative Studies Quarterly</i> |
| <i>APQ</i> | <i>American Politics Quarterly</i> |
| <i>APR</i> | <i>American Politics Research</i> |
| <i>WPQ</i> | <i>Western Political Quarterly</i> |

Course outline

I. Introduction

II. Politics and Macroeconomic Outcomes

- A. Politics and Economic Performance
- B. Party Differences in Macroeconomic Policy and Outcomes
- C. The Political (Electoral) Business Cycle
- D. Macroeconomic Policy: Monetary and Fiscal Policy

III. Public Reactions to the Economy

- A. The Demand for Macroeconomic Outcomes
- B. Economic Performance and Government Popularity
- C. Economic Performance and Electoral Outcomes: General
- D. Economic Performance and Electoral Outcomes: Presidential Elections
- E. Economic Performance and Electoral Outcomes: Congressional Elections
- F. Economic Performance and Electoral Outcomes: State and Local Elections
- G. Economic Performance and Electoral Outcomes: Comparative Elections

IV. The Size and Growth of the Public Sector

- A. Trends and General Explanations
- B. Empirical Tests
- C. The Size of Government and Political Institutions
- D. The Price Deflator Controversy
- E. Cross-National Perspectives on Government Growth
- F. Popular Demand for the Public Sector

V. The Politics of Income Inequality and Poverty

- A. General Trends and Patterns in Income Inequality
- B. General Perspectives on Politics and Income Inequality
- C. Linking Politics and Economic Inequality
- D. Inequality and Political Representation
- E. Understanding Attitudes toward the Rich and the Poor
- F. Linking Politics and Economic Inequality: Attitudes, Perceptions, and Behavior
- G. Inequality and Political Participation
- H. Income Inequality and Political Polarization
- I. Income mobility
- J. Linking Politics and Poverty

Weekly reading list**1. Politics and Macroeconomic Outcomes (August 30)**

Hendrick and Garand, "Variation in State Economic Growth: Decomposing State, Regional, and National Effects," *JOP* (November 1991: 1093-1110).

Jones, "Public Policies and Economic Growth in the American States," *JOP* (February 1990: 219-33).

2. Politics and Macroeconomic Outcomes (September 6)

Hibbs, *The American Political Economy*, chapter 8.

3. Public Reactions to the Economy (September 13)

Conover, Feldman, and Knight, "Judging Inflation and Unemployment: The Origins of Retrospective Evaluations," *JOP* (August 1986: 565-88).

Conover, Feldman, and Knight, "The Personal and Political Underpinnings of Economic Forecasts," *AJPS* (August 1987: 559-83).

Holbrook and Garand, "Homo Economist? Economic Information and Economic Voting," *PRQ* (June 1996: 351-75).

Rudolph, "Who's Responsible for the Economy? The Formation and Consequences of Responsibility," *PRQ* (June 1996: 351-75).

5. Public Reactions to the Economy (September 27)

Romero and Stambough, "Personal Economic Well-Being and the Individual Vote for Congress: A Pooled Analysis, 1980-1990," *PRQ* (September 1996: 607-16).

Gomez and Wilson, "Causal Attribution and Economic Voting in American Congressional Elections," *PRQ* (September 2003: 271-82).

6. The Size and Growth of the Public Sector (October 11)

Garrett and Rhine, "On the Size and Growth of Government," Federal Reserve of St. Louis, 2006.

Lowery and Berry, "The Growth of Government in the United States: An Empirical Assessment of Competing Explanations," *AJPS* (November 1983: 665-94).

Lewis-Beck and Rice, "Governmental Growth in the United States," *JOP* (February 1985: 2-30).

Marlow and Orzechowski, "Public Sector Unions and Public Spending," *Public Choice* (October 1996: 1-16).

Garand and Kaehler, "Bureaucratic Constituency Influence on Congressional Roll-Call Behavior," paper presented at the 2016 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 7-10, 2016.

Garand, Myers, and Renegar, "Seniority, political experience, and support for government spending in the US House: a culture of spending?" *Public Choice* (2016: 217–238).

Garand, "Government Growth in the American States: Decomposing Real Growth and Deflator Effects," *American Politics Quarterly* (October 1988: 405-24).

Blais, Blake, and Dion, "Do Parties Make a Difference? Parties and the Size of Government in Liberal Democracies," *AJPS* (February 1993: 40-62).

Bawn and Rosenbluth, "Short versus Long Coalitions: Electoral Accountability and the Size of the Public Sector," *AJPS* (April 2006: 251-65).

Boix, "Democracy, Development, and the Public Sector," *AJPS* (January 2001: 1-17).

7. The Size and Growth of the Public Sector (October 18)

Green, "The Price Elasticity of Mass Preferences," *APSR* (March 1992: 128-48).

Garand, Parkhurst, and Seoud, "Bureaucrats, Policy Attitudes, and Political Behavior: An Extension of the Bureau Voting Model of Government Growth," *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* (April 1991: 177-212).

Feldman and Steenbergen, "The Humanitarian Foundation of Public Support for Social Welfare," *AJPS* (July 2001: 658-77).

Garand and Blais, "Understanding Joint Support for Government Spending and Taxes: Linking Benefits and Costs in the Mass Public," paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2003.

Jacoby, "Public Attitudes toward Government Spending," *AJPS* (May 1994: 336-61).

Rudolph and Evans, "Political Trust, Ideology, and Public Support for Government Spending," *AJPS* (July 2005: 660-81).

Bowler and Donovan, "Popular Responsiveness to Taxation," *PROQ* 40 (Fall 2002): 20-30.

Kimmel and Rader, The Federal Spending Paradox: Economic SelfInterest and Symbolic Racism in Contemporary Fiscal Politics, APR

Garand, Xu, and Davis, "Immigration Attitudes and S u p p o r

62).

8. The Politics of Income Inequality (October 25)

Piketty and Saez, "Income Inequality in the United States, 1913-1998," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (February 2003: 1-39).

Piketty and Saez, "Updated data through 2015," available at <https://eml.berkeley.edu/~saez/>.

Piketty and Saez, "Inequality in the Long Run," *Science* (May 2014: 838-43).

Donovan, Labonte, and Dalaker, "The U.S. Income Distribution: Trends and Issues," Congressional Research Service report (December 2016: 1-47), available at <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44705.pdf>.

Noah, "The Great Divergence: What is Causing America's Growing Income Inequality," 10-part series on income inequality, *Slate Magazine Online*, <http://www.slate.com/id/2267157/>, 2010.

APSA Task Force Report, "*American Democracy in an Age of Rising Inequality*," *PS: Political Science and Politics* (December 2004: 651-66).

Kelly, "Political Choice, Public Policy, and Distributional Outcomes," *AJPS* (October 2005: 865-80).

Xu, Garand, and Zhu, "Imported Inequality: Immigrants and Income Inequality in the American States," *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* (June 2016: 147-71).

9. The Politics of Income Inequality (November 1)

Bartels, *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*, chapters 5-7.

Lupia, Levine, Menning, and Sin, "Were Bush Tax Cut Supporters Simply Ignorant? A Second Look at Conservatives and Liberals in 'Homer Gets a Tax Cut,'" *Perspectives on Politics* (December 2007: 773-84).

Bartels, *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*, chapters 9.

Gilens, "Inequality and De

10. The Politics of Income Inequality (November 8)

Piston, *Class Attitudes in America: Sympathy for the Poor, Resentment of the Rich, and Political Implications*.

11. The Politics of Income Inequality (November 15)

Xu and Garand, "Economic Contexts and Americans' Perceptions of Income Inequality," *SSQ* (December 2010: 1220-41).

Scott, Matland, Michelbach, and Bornstein, "Just Deserts: An Experimental Study of Distributive Justice Norms," *AJPS* (October 2001: 749-67).

Osberg and Smeeding, "Fair Inequality? Attitudes to Pay Differentials: The United States in Comparative Perspective," *American Sociological Review* (June 2006: 450-73).

McCarthy, Davis, Garand, and Olson, "Religion and Attitudes toward Redistributive Policies among Americans," *PRQ* (2016: 121-33).

Newman, Johnston, and Lown, "False Consciousness or Class Awareness? Local Income Inequality, Personal Economic Position, and Belief in American Meritocracy," *AJPS* (April 2015: 326-340).

Newman, "Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Local Gender-Based Earnings Inequality and Women's Belief in the American Dream," *AJPS* (October 2016: 1006-1025).

Galbraith and Hale, "State Income Inequality and Presidential Election Turnout and Outcomes," *SSQ* (December 2008: 887-901).

Garand and Kaehler, "Income Inequality and Voter Turnout in the American States, 1960-2012," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2015.

12. The Politics of Income Inequality (November 29)

McCarty, Poole, and Rosenthal, *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches*.

Garand, "Income Inequality, Party Polarization, and Roll-Call Voting in the U.S. Senate," *JOP* (October 2010: 1109-28).

Tavits and Potter, "The Effect of Inequality and Social Identity on Party Strategies," *AJPS* (July 2015: 744–758).