

The Wall Street Journal Instructor Guide

An Overview for Political Science Professors
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About The Wall Street Journal's Instructor Guide

We developed this guide to help you maximize The Wall Street Journal as a resource for your classes. You'll be able to energize discussions and engage students with tangible examples of course concepts that your students can apply in the real world. In addition, with the help of faculty partners, we've curated a special collection of our most popular and thought-provoking articles across management. For each of these readings, we provide a summary, correlation to course topics, classroom applications and questions suitable for launching discussions and conducting assessments.

Here are some of the many ways to incorporate WSJ into your courses:

- **Course Readings:** Assign articles as required reading alongside your textbook sections. For best results, include assessment questions on quizzes and exams.
- **Discussion Launchers:** Use articles to spur classroom and threaded discussions in online and hybrid courses on core concepts and current events.
- **Extra Credit:** Allow students to read optional articles and answer assessment questions for extra credit.
- **Group Projects:** WSJ is a rich source of real-world topics for group research and presentation projects.
- **Research Papers and Case Studies:** WSJ features provide timely citations for research projects.

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A Republican Holdout In California Is Under Siege - and Key to US House



Reporter: Natalie Andrews and Alejandro Lazo (06/01/18)

Reviewed By: Edward Miller, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Topics: California, Political Parties

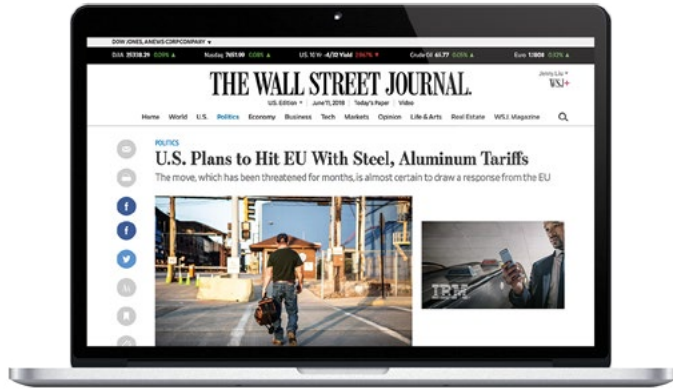
Summary: California is experiencing decline of support for the Republican Party. This in part is due to the emigration of working and middle class white voters from the area, and the growing Latino and Asian population in the state. Democrats are now targeting four of the county's House districts for pickup, two of which are open seats with the retirement of the Republican incumbents. Complicating the election, however, are the primary rules, which have all candidates—regardless of party—running against each other in the preliminary contest with the two highest vote getters going into the general election. Democrats fear that their large candidate field could split the vote and they would be shut out for the general election.

Classroom Application: Students can discuss California's primary system, especially in comparison to those used by other states - which mainly constitute of a closed or open primary. Students can also discuss how parties can attempt to avoid splitting the ticket in California's primary system.

Questions:

1. What was the "blanket primary" that California had adopted? Why did the US Supreme Court say it was not constitutional?
2. Open primaries have been criticized as allowing a vote by members of the opposition to party to vote in their competitors primary, sometimes to select the weakest candidate, referred to as raiding. Could California's top two top candidate primary system lead to raiding?
3. Why did proponents of California's "top two" candidate primary system believe it would lead to more moderate candidates being chosen?
4. Discuss the historic political differences between the northern and southern parts of California. Is this changing?

In Many States, Students at Public Universities Foot Biggest Part of the Bill



Reporter: Douglas Belkin (3/30/18)

Reviewed By: Edward Miller, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Topics: States, Student Loans, University and Colleges

Summary: College students are paying a greater share of the cost of their education at public four year universities, as states reduced their funding at the time of the Great Recession and since have only modestly increased their appropriation. Adjusted for inflation, average tuition increased by almost \$2,000 between 2008 and 2017, when students in 28 states paid more than half of their education. Higher education, the third largest state expenditure behind Medicare and K-12 education, represents 9.9% of the general funds in 2017, compared to 12.9% in 1995.

Classroom Application: Students can discuss why states should provide higher education, including aspects of human capital, the workforce, citizenship, etc. Recently, STEM fields are emphasized, while humanities receive reduced funding; students can evaluate the appropriateness of this trend. Additionally, some states are recruiting more out of state and international students, who pay more tuition than in-state students.

Questions:

1. Given the “equal protection” clause of the Constitution, how can states charge out of state students more than in-state students?
2. Should four year public universities be transformed to emphasize teaching students the skills needed for today’s business sector?
3. What is a quasi-public good and why can higher education be considered one?
4. Create two time series showing the percent of your state’s budget and the percent paid for by the state of the costs of public four year schools over the last decade. What would you conclude?

White House Halts New North Korea Sanctions in Mad Dash to Save Summit



Reporter: Vivian Salama, Andrew Jeong, and Chun Han Wong (5/29/18)

Reviewed By: Edward Miller, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Topics: North Korea, Nuclear Weapons, Trump, International Relations

Summary: To advance the summit between North Korea's President Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump, the White House announced that it would postpone indefinitely additional trade sanctions against North Korea that are aimed at three dozen organizations, including Russian and Chinese targets. For the summit, the U.S. wants North Korea to dismantle its nuclear arms and allow verification, and Kim is said to accept "complete denuclearization" if the U.S. guarantees that it would not topple Kim's government. The understanding of denuclearization may differ between the leaders of these two countries.

Classroom Application: Students can review the ill-fated results of past deals with North Korea and discuss whether Kim will be more likely to hold up their part of the agreement. Additionally, students can also discuss the role that China, North Korea's largest trading partner, will play. E.g. will China insist that they take part in the negotiations?

Questions:

1. Why would China insist that they are at the table in talks between the U.S., South Korea, and North Korea?
2. What kinds of forces does the U.S. have in South Korea that North Korea President Kim Jong Un would like to reduce or eliminate as part of any deal?
3. North Korea's President Kim Jong Un may be interested in economic development in North Korea. To what extent and why could making a deal with the U.S. and South Korea be restrained by the North Korean Military?
4. The US pulled out of the Iranian nuclear deal. Are there any connections between Iran and North Korea?

Populism's Challenge to Democracy



Reporter: Kristina Peterson (5/17/18)

Reviewed By: Edward Miller, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Topics: Constitution, democracy, ideology

Summary: In the U.S. and several countries in Europe, a disturbing development is the rise of populism, a concern when it becomes a threat to core liberal institutions, such as the free press, independent civil society, constitutional courts, and the rule of law. Populism's initial motivation was economic, as those people hardest hit by the Great Recession lost confidence in mainstream political parties and governing intuitions. Often the alienation was most felt by less educated citizens living in smaller towns and rural areas. Charismatic leaders have been able to capitalize on the fears of these people, often characterizing conflict as a zero-sum game—the rights of the majority vs. the rights of the minorities. To counter these trends, those supporting liberal democracy need to identify threats to liberal institutions while recognizing the need to reform them to avoid gridlock and limits on political debate.

Classroom Application: Students can discuss the trend of rising populism in the U.S. and several European countries. Additionally, students can discuss the cultural changes that the same group of voters question.

Questions:

1. The rise of populism in the U.S. seems to have benefited Republicans. Why is this occurring when the same economic groups had been part of the Democratic Party coalition?
2. Discuss cultural changes that have increased the urban-rural divide.
3. Many are concerned about the increase in economic inequality. What political impacts can economic inequality have?
4. One element in the rise of populism is growing economic inequality. Why has the income distribution changed in the last two decades?

A Voting Rights Push: Allowing Felons to Cast Ballots



Reporter: Arian Campo-Flores and Jon Kamp (5/11/18)

Reviewed By: Edward Miller, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Topics: Election Laws, Race, States

Summary: Groups are working in many states to change laws to restore the voting rights to those convicted of crimes. New Jersey is considering a law that would allow those in prison to vote. If passed, they would join Maine and Vermont as the only two states that now allow this. Some states (e.g. Maryland) have passed laws to restore voting rights for those on probation or parole. Governor Terry McAuliffe (D,Va) issued an executive order to allow those with a felony record to vote. This would leave only Florida and Kentucky with laws that revoke voting rights permanently for those convicted of a crime, only to be restored by filing a request for reinstatement. Indiana and Massachusetts are among the states that allow a person to vote after being released from prison. New York Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order restoring the voting rights of those on parole [15 states do]. Earlier re-enfranchisement is believed to benefit Democrats because individuals incarcerated are disproportionately minorities, who are likely to prefer Democrats.

Classroom Application: Students can ask many questions, including: What is the argument for disenfranchising someone convicted of a felony? For those who lose their voting rights, when should they be restored? Students can also discuss illegal voter suppression, and under what circumstances does the term apply.

Questions:

1. When do people convicted of a felony in your state get their voting rights restored?
2. Isn't the right to vote, even for those convicted of a felony, protected by the U.S. Constitution?
3. It is argued that those serving sentences in prison are disproportionately minorities who are more likely to support Democrats if they had the right to vote. Is this true for your state?
4. What is the justification for removing the voting rights of someone convicted of a crime? What counter argument can you make?

