***The False Promise of Big Government: How Washington Helps the Rich and Hurts the Poor***

Presented by: Professor Patrick Garry

1. **Introduction**

This lecture is not about making government “small,” or about depicting it as “bad.” The lecture is about the automatic assumption that bigger government is a necessary aid to the average person.

1. **The Myth that bigger government is needed by the poor and average person to counteract the injustices of the private sector**
2. New Deal roots of the myth
3. The historical staying power of the myth – e.g. Great Society, 2008 recession
4. **Addressing the Myth**
5. Contradictory facts, admissions
6. Big government responds to big power – e.g., relationship to big business
7. Big government becomes end in itself
8. Size of government is proxy for social remedies – e.g., education, poverty
9. How big government can betray the poor
10. How big government can backfire on stated intentions
11. Big government crowds out social institutions vital to poor and average person
12. The benefits conferred by the mediating institutions of civil society
13. How government can undercut those institutions
14. How social erosion hurts the poor