

## Second Exam Study Guide

### POLS 4790: Political Polarization

#### Topics:

1. The difference between polarization and partisan sorting. How is this difference meaningful and how is it not? Is partisan sorting consequential?
2. Have voters recognized elite polarization? How do Levendusky and others measure this?
3. How do party cues promote partisan sorting?
4. Does sorting more often take place by voters switching parties, or switching positions? Does it depend on the issue?
5. What is affective polarization? How does it differ from purely ideological polarization (that is polarization based on policy positions)?
6. What is partisan bias? What effect does it have on polarization?
7. How does the contemporary media environment promote polarization? What are some of the reasons that this effect might be exaggerated?
8. What is the general relationship between political engagement/information and ideology? How do you explain this pattern?
9. What is the culture wars thesis? How does it differ from Inglehart's theory of postmaterialism? How do both explain the cultural/religious divides in contemporary American politics?
10. How do income/class differences and cultural/religious differences contemporary American political behavior? How, if at all, has this changed over recent decades?
11. How does Jacoby measure the extent to which citizens can reason about values? What do his findings indicate?
12. On what other values have partisans diverged over recent decades? How do they differ on these values? Might some of these divisions be exaggerated?