

# First Exam Study Guide

## POLS 4790: Political Polarization

### Topics:

1. Polarization between the parties in Congress: greater distance between the parties on the liberal-conservative dimension and the disappearance of moderates.
2. The median voter theorem: what is it and how does it relate to polarization?
3. Measuring mass polarization by feeling thermometers: interpret the differences between supporters of the Democratic and Republican candidates and non-voters.
4. Differences in legislator ideology by level of district partisanship.
5. How do redistricting and geographic sorting relate to growth of safe partisan seats (“deep red” and “deep blue” districts)?
6. Differences in the electorates of “red states” and “blue states”?
7. Campaign contributors: which types are more/less polarized and to whom do they give?
8. Are party activists and party identifiers polarized? How?
9. How do party primaries influence polarization?
10. How does income inequality relate to polarization?