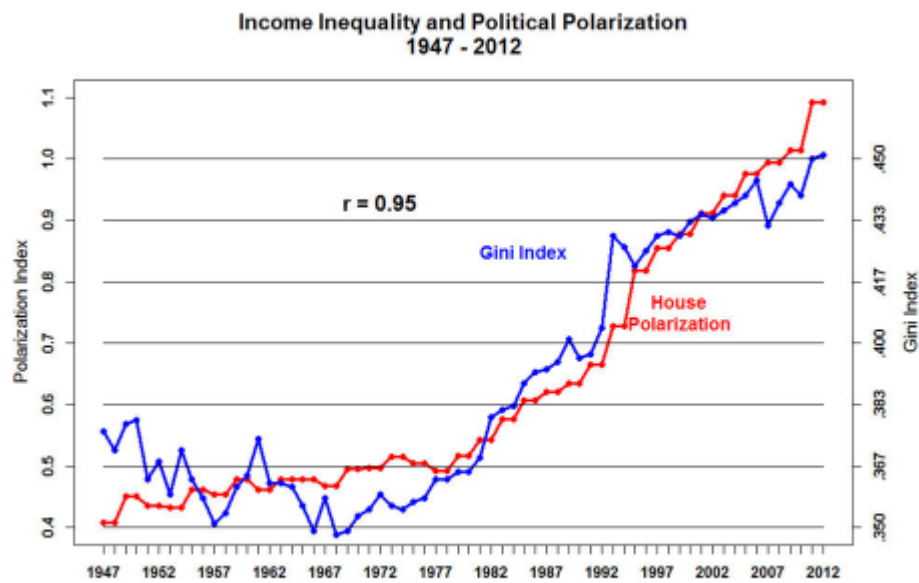# Second Examination POLS 4790
The Polarization of American Politics

7 November 2014
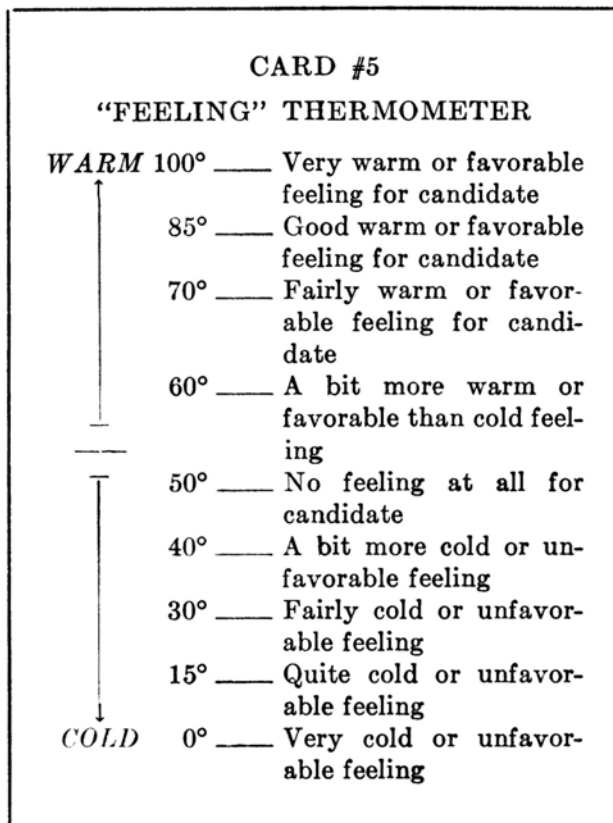
Professor Poole

PLEASE KEEP YOUR ANSWERS *SHORT AND SPECIFIC* TO ALL QUESTIONS

1. What does the Gini Index measure and how is it computed?

Income Inequality and Political Polarization
1947 - 2012

2. What is a feeling thermometer and why is it important?

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┌─────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│              CARD #5                         │
│        "FEELING" THERMOMETER                 │
│                                              │
│  WARM 100° ____ Very warm or favorable       │
│        ↑        feeling for candidate        │
│         85° ____ Good warm or favorable      │
│                  feeling for candidate       │
│         70° ____ Fairly warm or favor-       │
│                  able feeling for candi-     │
│                  date                        │
│         60° ____ A bit more warm or          │
│                  favorable than cold feel-   │
│                  ing                         │
│         50° ____ No feeling at all for       │
│                  candidate                   │
│         40° ____ A bit more cold or un-      │
│                  favorable feeling           │
│         30° ____ Fairly cold or unfavor-     │
│                  able feeling                │
│         15° ____ Quite cold or unfavor-      │
│                  able feeling                │
│  COLD    0° ____ Very cold or unfavor-       │
│                  able feeling                │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────┘
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3. Below is Figure 2.19A from *Polarized America*. What is the importance of this figure? Explain what the dashed and solid lines measure.
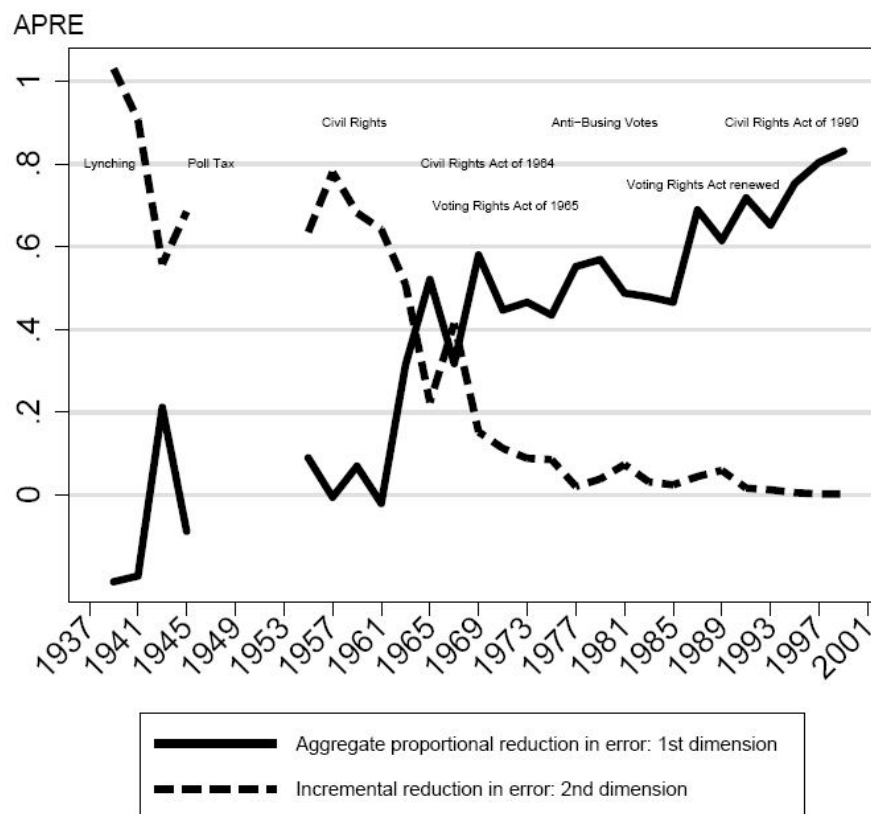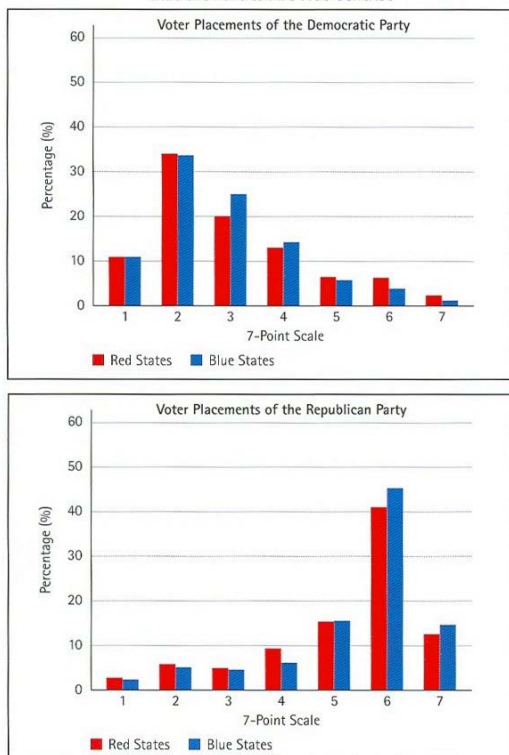
APRE

Figure 2.19A

4. What is the point Fiorina is making with this graph? What kind of data is he using to make this graph?
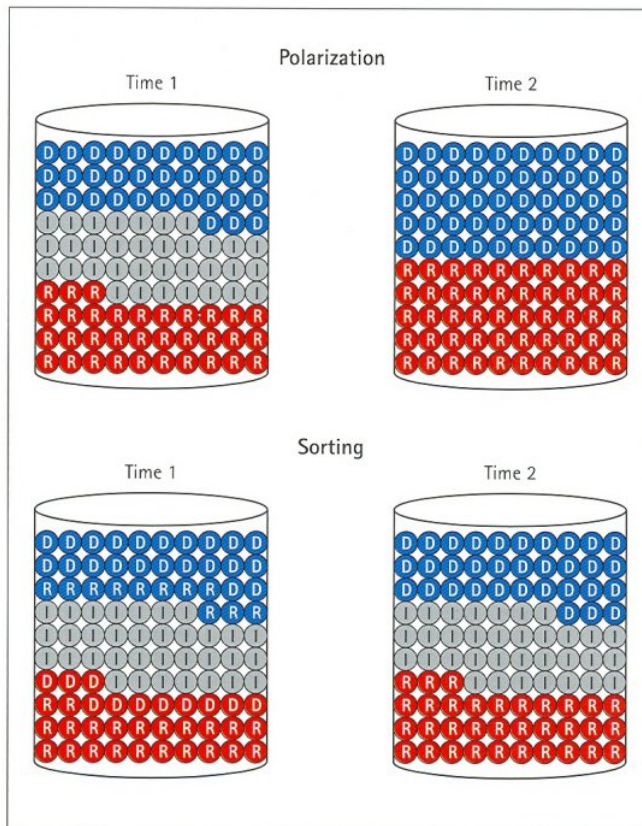

FIGURE 3.5
Both Red and Blue State Voters Agree
that the Parties Are Not Centrist

Voter Placements of the Democratic Party

Voter Placements of the Republican Party

Source: Calculated from the 2004 National Election Study.

5. Below is Figure 4.1 from *Culture War*. What is the main difference between polarization and sorting? Does it make sense that there are no Independents in the polarized condition?

FIGURE 4.1
Polarization vs. Sorting

6. Below is a Figure courtesy of Gary Jacobson. What does this tell us about the American Public?

Approval of Obama's Job Performance, by Party

Democrats — Republicans — Independents