Final Examination POLS 4790H
The Politics of Income Inequality

17 December 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?
2. What are the main problems with the Dodd-Frank Act?
3. What is the importance of this Figure from *Polarized America*?
4. What does this figure tell us about the changes in the economy over the past several decades?

Figure 5. Total Change in Jobs, 1990–2008

Source: Authors’ calculations using Bureau of Labor Statistics historical data series
5. What is Assortative Mating and Why is it Important?
6. What does this figure from Saez-Zucman tell us about the Political leadership of the USA?

![Composition of the top 0.01% wealth share, 1913-2012](image)

![Composition of the bottom 90% wealth share](image)

Figure 8: The Top 0.01% and Bottom 90% Wealth Share Composition

Notes: The top panel plots the top 0.01% wealth share and its composition from 1913 to 2012. The category other includes business assets, net housing wealth, and pension wealth. The bottom panel plots the bottom 90% wealth share and its composition from 1917 to 2012 lumping together the category of equities, fixed claim assets, and non-mortgage debt. Source: Appendix Table B5.
7. What are the major deficiencies of our education system that contribute to the increase in income inequality?
8. What is the importance of the Taft-Hartley Act? Has it been in the news lately?