

POLI 100B: Congress

Agenda: 12 February 2008

Topic 3: Ideology, Party, and Polarization in Congress

A. The Spatial (Geometric) Model of Voting and Party Competition: Theory

- 1. The Median Voter Theorem**
- 2. Utility Functions and Indifference Curves**
- 3. Constraint: The Role of Ideology**

B. Estimating Spatial (Geometric) Maps of Voting and Party Competition

- 1. Roll Call Voting in Congress**
- 2. The Basic Space of American Politics**

C. The Polarization of American Politics