Exam 2: Important Terms, Concepts, and Ideas

SOC 521 Wealth, Power and Inequality

There will be True/False or multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and one essay question.

- Causes of Rising Inequality
  1. P90/P10, P90/P50, & P50/P10
  2. How tax change inequality
  3. Kuznets’ Curve
  4. Changes in Top 10% & 1% income share over time in the US
  5. Changes in occupational distribution
  6. The skill biased technological change (SBTC) hypothesis: Evidence and Problems
  7. Computer and the SBTC
  8. History of income inequality in the United States
  9. Changes in minimum wage and union membership in the US
  10. Relations between union membership and inequality
  11. Changes in within- and between-country inequalities in the world
  12. Job polarization: Different trends across time in the US
  13. Routine vs. non-routine jobs
  14. Change in the share of labor income and capital income over time in the US
  15. What causes the change in the labor share.
  16. Changes in the union membership and public sectors in the United States
  17. Definition of institution and structure.

- Possible essay questions (2 pages max). One of the following questions will appear in the 2nd exam.
  1. Discuss the historical changes in income inequality in the United States since the early 20th century. Divide them into 3 periods and describe the characteristics of each period. Try to link your discussion with Kuznets’ Curve.
  2. Explain the skill biased technological change (SBTC) hypothesis in explaining rising income inequality and discuss its strengths and weaknesses. Try to link the SBTC hypothesis with functionalism.
  3. Describe the proposed causes of rising income inequality in the United States and their strengths and weaknesses.