

Political Geography

This course has three objectives for students:

1. to have a working understanding of the theoretical concepts and challenges underpinning the study of geography and politics.
2. to have a working familiarity with the most current research topics in political geography.
3. to be familiar with and have a basic understanding of tools and resources used to research these concepts and to be able to apply geographic concepts to their own areas of research interest.

Professor Ryan D. Enos

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office hours: Thursday 2–4PM and by appointment

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class meeting: Tu 2-4PM, CGIS S153

1 Topics by Date

1. Introduction to class
 - **January 29:** Introduction to class and space in politics
2. Theoretical Geography
 - **February 5:** *Problems of space and politics*
 - **February 12:** *Concepts and measurement of space*
3. Tools of Analysis
 - **February 19:** *Concepts of Geographic Analysis*
 - **February 20:** Lab session on ArcGIS (optional), 5-7PM, K018
 - **February 26:** *Basics of Geographic Analysis in R: accounting for the spatial structure of data in quantitative analysis*
 - Note that class will meet in K018 from 2-5PM. If you don't have a CGIS lab account, please obtain one.
 - **February 27:** Lab Session on ArcGIS (optional), 5-7PM, K018
4. Topics
 - **March 5:** *movement:* why people live where they do and how this affects politics and a mini-lab session on PostGIS
 - **March 12:** *context:* how does where you are affecting behavior?
 - **March 26:** *lines:* the effect of geographic boundaries on behavior and research

- **April 2:** *variation:* how much spatial variation is there in behavior?
- **April 9:** *the psychology of space*
- **April 16:** *history's reach*
- **April 30:** make-up/presentations/unfinished business

2 Assignments

You are required to do four assignments in this class: regularly participate by spoken and electronic means; make a primary contribution to the course wiki; observe and map a political geography phenomenon in the Boston area; and journal your reflections on the relevance of the weekly topic to your research.

During other weeks, I may assign exercises to help with skills acquisition. These will not be graded

2.1 participation

All students are expected to attend every class and participate by talking during every class. You are also, occasionally, expected to make contributions to the wiki. The latter requirement will be easy if you simply remain an active reader of the wiki, which will enrich your experience with the course.

2.2 research journal

Each week, in writing reflect on how the weekly topic is applicable to your substantive interests. Propose a related research design. Do this before class. Update it after class with any additional insight.

2.3 primary course wiki contribution

Because this is a research course and your instructor does not have a monopoly on knowledge, we will maintain a course wiki that is intended to supplement our weekly meetings. This wiki will be a repository for resources related to the course. Resources include, but are not limited to, insights, relevant research not included in the syllabus, research by other scholars, and data sources. Each student will be tasked with being the primary contributor to this wiki during an assigned week. Contributions should be substantial, useful, and should teach us things we might not have known otherwise.

You will be expected to briefly and unceremoniously present your wiki contributions to the class the following week. We will assign weeks as enrollment is set.

2.4 observe and map

Go find something politically interesting in the Boston area that has a spatial component and is either 1) directly interesting to you and your research, 2) analogous to something interesting to you and your research. Go to that location and do two things:

1. Write a description of the phenomenon and the related research questions.
2. Create a map by either:
 - (a) using existing data or
 - (b) collect data using GPS - the data collection can easily be done using your Smart-Phone <http://gis.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k235&pageid=icb.page189835>

This assignment should be done with a partner. Each pair should turn in one project. No two groups should map the same phenomenon. It is due on April 30.

3 Grades

Grades for this class will be based on the following:

- participation (25%)
- wiki contribution (25%)
- research journal (25%)
- observe and map (25%)

4 Grades

Collaboration is allowed in this class. You should do your own research journal, because otherwise that'd be pretty pointless.

5 Books

Obtain:

Anthony C Gatrell. *Distance and space: a geographical perspective*. Contemporary problems in geography. Oxford University Press, New York, 1983.

Andrew Gelman. *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way they Do*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2010.

Cara Wong. *Boundaries of Obligation in American Politics: Geographic, National, and Racial Communities*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2010.

I recommend that you obtain:

Roger S. Bivand, Edzer J. Pebesma, and Virgilio Gómez-Rubio. *Applied Spatial Data Analysis with R*. Springer, New York, 2008.

6 Readings by Date

Readings should be completed by the dates below. Readings are available on the course website. Those under “related readings” are optional.

- **January 29:**
- **February 5:**

W. R. Tobler. A computer movie simulating urban growth in the detroit region. *Economic Geography*, 46:234–240, 1970.

C. E. Gehlke and Katherine Biehl. Certain effects of grouping upon the size of the correlation coefficient in census tract material. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 29, 1934.

S. Openshaw. *Concepts and Techniques in Modern Geography*, chapter The Modifiable Areal Unit Problem. Geo Books, Norwich, UK, 1983.

John Agnew. Mapping politics: how context counts in electoral geography. *Political Geography*, 15(2):129–146, 1996.

C. Flint. Whither the individual, whither the context? *Political Geography*, 15(2):147–151, 1996.

W. Brustein. Mapping politics: how mode of production counts in electoral geography. *Political Geography*, 15(2):153–158, 1996.

Gary King. Why context should not count. *Political Geography*, 15:159–164, 1996.

John Agnew. Maps and models in political studies: a reply to comments. *Political Geography*, 15(2):165–167, 1996.

Wendy K. Tam Cho and Thomas J. Rudolph. Emanating political participation: Untangling the spatial structure behind participation. *British Journal of Political Science*, 38(2), 2008.

related readings:

William Bunge. *Theoretical Geography*. Gleeprups, 1966.

Daniel Z. Sui. Toblers first law of geography: A big idea for a small world? *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 94(2):269–277, 2004.

Trevor J. Barnes. A paper related to everything but more related to local things. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 94(2):278–283, 2004.

Jonathan D. Phillips. Doing justice to the law. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 94(2):290–293, 2004.

Jonathan M. Smith. Unlawful relations and verbal inflation. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 94(2):294–299, 2004.

Michael F. Goodchild. The validity and usefulness of laws in geographic information science and geography. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 94(2):300–303, 2004.

Waldo Tobler. On the first law of geography: A reply. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 94(2):304–310, 2004.

- **February 12:**

Anthony C Gatrell. *Distance and space: a geographical perspective*. Contemporary problems in geography. Oxford University Press, New York, 1983.

(Especially chapters 2, 3, and 5 (suggest you take notes))

Henry E. Brady and John E. McNulty. Turning out to vote: The costs of finding and getting to the polling place. *American Political Science Review*, 105, 2011.

related readings:

J.A. Agnew and J.S. Duncan. The transfer of ideas into anglo-american human geography. *Progress in Human Geography*, 5(1):42–57, 1981.

Allan Pred. Structuration and place: On the becoming of sense of place and structure of feeling. *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, 13(1):45–68, 1983.

Alan Pred. Place as historically contingent process: Structuration and the time-geography of becoming places. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 74(2):279–297, 1984.

John A. Agnew. *Place and politics: The geographical mediation of state and society*. Allen & Unwin Boston, 1987.

- **February 19:**

Wendy K. Tam Cho and James G. Gimpel. Geographic information systems and the spatial dimensions of american politics. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 15, 2012.

Mark Monmonier. *How to Lie with Maps*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1996.

(chapters 2, 3, 10, and 11)

John Agnew, Thomas W Gillespie, Jorge Gonzalez, and Brian Min. Baghdad nights: evaluating the us military “surge” using nighttime light signatures. *Environment and Planning A*, 40(10):2285–2295, 2008.

related readings:

Brian Min. Distributing power: Electrifying the poor in india. Working Paper.

- **February 26:**

John O’Loughlin. *A Companion to Political Geography*, chapter Spatial Analysis in Political Geography, pages 31–43. Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA, 2008.

As needed:

Roger S. Bivand, Edzer J. Pebesma, and Virgilio Gómez-Rubio. *Applied Spatial Data Analysis with R*. Springer, New York, 2008.

related readings:

Robert J. Sampson and Stephen W. Raudenbush. Systematic social observation of public spaces: A new look at disorder in urban neighborhoods 1. *American Journal of Sociology*, 105(3):603–651, 1999.

Stephen Gibbons and Henry G. Overman. Mostly pointless spatial econometrics? SERC Discussion Paper 61, 2010.

Gary King. Geography, statistics, and ecological inference. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 90(3):601–606, 2004.

Ernesto Calvo and Marcelo Escolar. The local voter: A geographically weighted approach to ecological inference. *American Politics Research*, 47(1), 2003.

• **March 5:**

Thomas C. Schelling. Dynamic models of segregation. *The Journal of Mathematical Sociology*, 1, 1971.

Charles M. Tiebout. A pure theory of local expenditures. *Journal of Political Economy*, 64(5), 1956.

Edward L. Glaeser, Matthew E. Kahn, and Jordan Rappaport. Why do the poor live in cities? the role of public transportation. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 63(1), 2008.

Bill Bishop. *The Big Sort*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, New York, 2009.

(chapters 1 and 2)

Sameul J. Abrams and Morris P. Fiorina. the big sort that wasn’t: A skeptical reexamination. *PS Political Science and Politics*, 45(2):203, 2012.

Jowei Chen and Jonathan Rodden. Unintentional gerrymandering: Political geography and electoral bias in legislatures. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 2013.

related readings:

William A Fischel. *The Homevoter Hypothesis: How Home Values Influence Local Government Taxation, School Finance, and Land-Use Policies*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 2001.

Raphael J. Sonenshein and Mark H. Drayse. Urban electoral coalitions in an age of immigration: Time and place in the 2001 and 2005 los angeles mayoral primaries. *Political Geography*, 25(5):570–95, June 2006.

Jane Jacobs. *The death and life of great American cities*. Vintage, 1992.

• **March 12:**

V.O. Key. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*. Knopf, New York, 1949.

(chapters 1, 15, 23–25)

Claudine Gay. Moving to opportunity: The political effects of a housing mobility experiment. *Urban Affairs Review*, 48(2), 2012.

Fred Cutler. Context and attitude formation: Social interaction, default information, or local interests? *Political Geography*, 26(5), 2007.

Wendy K. Tam Cho and Neil Baer. Environmental determinants of racial attitudes redux: The critical decisions related to operationalizing context. *American Politics Research*, 39(3), 2011.

Daniel J. Hopkins and Thad Williamson. Inactive by design? neighborhood design and political participation. *Political Behavior*, 34(1), 2010.

Ryan D. Enos. What the demolition of public housing teaches us about the impact of racial threat on political behavior. working paper, 2012.

related readings:

Andrés Villarreal. Political competition and violence in Mexico: Hierarchical social control in local patronage structures. *American Sociological Review*, 67(4), 2002.

Robert J. Sampson. *Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 2012.

Jeffery R. Kling, Jeffrey B. Liebman, and Lawrence F. Katz. Experimental analysis of neighborhood effects. *Econometrica*, 75(1), 2007.

Patrick Sharkey. An alternative approach to addressing selection into and out of social settings neighborhood change and African American children's economic outcomes. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 41(2):251–293, 2012.

• **March 26:**

Cara Wong. *Boundaries of Obligation in American Politics: Geographic, National, and Racial Communities*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2010.

(chapters 2–4)

Jens Hainmueller and Holger Lutz Kern. Incumbency as a source of spillover effects in mixed electoral systems: Evidence from a regression-discontinuity design. *Electoral Studies*, 27, 2008.

David Broockman. Do congressional candidates have reverse coattails? Evidence from a regression discontinuity design. *Political Analysis*, 17(4), 2009.

Jowei Chen. The effect of electoral geography on pork barreling in bicameral legislatures. *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(2):301–322, 2010.

Nahomi Ichino and Noah L. Nathan. Crossing the line: Local ethnic geography and voting in ghana. *American Political Science Review*, 2012.

related readings:

Stephen Gibbons and Stephen Machin. Valuing school quality, better transport, and lower crime: evidence from house prices. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 24(1), 2008.

Elisabeth R. Gerber and Jeffrey B. Lewis. Beyond the median: Voter preferences, district heterogeneity, and political representation. *The Journal of Political Economy*, 112(6), 2004.

David Card and Alan B. Krueger. Minimum wages and employment: A case study of the fast-food industry in new jersey and pennsylvania. *American Economic Review*, 84(4), 1994.

Per Pettersson-Lidbom. Do parties matter for economic outcomes? a regression discontinuity approach. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 6(5), 2008.

Daniel J. Hopkins. Translating into votes: The electoral impacts of spanish-language ballots. *American Journal of Political Science*, 55(4), 2011.

• **April 2:**

Andrew Gelman. *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way they Do*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2010.

(chapters 1–8)

Eitan Hersh and Clayton Nall. The primacy of race in the geography of income-based voting: New evidence from public voting records. Unpublished manuscript, 2012.

Seth Stephens-Davidowitz. The effects of racial animus on a black presidential candidate: Using google search data to find what surveys miss. Unpublished manuscript, 2012.

Wendy K. Tam Cho. Contagion effects and ethnic contribution networks. *American Journal of Political Science*, 47(2), 2003.

related readings:

Edward L. Glaeser and Bryce A. Ward. Myths and realities of american political geography. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20(2), 2006.

• **April 9:**

Cara J. Wong. “little” and “big” pictures in our heads: Race, local context, and innumeracy about racial groups in the united states. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 71(3):392–412, September 2007.

Cara Wong, Jake Bowers, Tarah Williams, and Katherine Drake. Bringing the person back in: Boundaries, perceptions, and the measurement of racial context. *Journal of Politics*, 2012.

Bibb Latané, J. H. Liu, A. Nowak, M. Bonevento, and L. Zheng. Distance matters: Physical space and social impact. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 21(8):795–805, 1995.

Yaacov Trope and Nira Liberman. Temporal construal. *Psychological Review*, 110(3):403–421, 2003.

S. Shamai. Sense of place: An empirical measurement. *Geoforum*, 22(3):347–358, 1991.

B.S. Jorgensen and R.C. Stedman. Sense of place as an attitude: Lakeshore owners attitudes toward their properties. *Journal of environmental psychology*, 21(3):233–248, 2001.

related readings:

Ryan D. Enos and Tess Wise. Maps in our heads: Socio-political attitudes and demographic awareness. working paper, 2012.

Ryan D. Enos. Experimental test of the effects of racial segregation on intergroup attitudes. Chicago, April 2011. Midwest Political Science Association.

Kevin Lynch. *The Image of the City*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1960.

Stanley Milgram. *The Individual in a Social World*. Pinter and Martin, London, 2010.

R.C. Stedman. Toward a social psychology of place predicting behavior from place-based cognitions, attitude, and identity. *Environment and behavior*, 34(5):561–581, 2002.

Bibb Latané and Todd L’Herrou. Spatial clustering in the conformity game: Dynamic social impact in electronic groups. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 70(6):1218–1230, June 1996.

• April 16:

Jonathan A. Rodden. The long shadow of the industrial revolution: Political geography and the representation of the left. Unpublished manuscript, 2011.

related readings:

James G. Gimpel and Wendy K. Tam Cho. The persistence of white ethnicity in new england politics. *Political Geography*, 23, 2004.

Scott C. James. Timing and sequence in congressional elections: Interstate contagion and america’s nineteenth-century scheduling regime. *Studies in American Political Development*, 21(2), 2007.