

Political Geography

This course has three objectives:

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 research.

Professor Ryan D. Enos

Office: CGIS K406

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2–4PM and by appointment

Email: renos@gov.harvard.edu

Class Meeting: Tu 2-4PM, Memorial Hall 302

1 Topics by Date

1. Introduction to class
September 5: Introduction to class and space in politics
2. Theoretical Geography
September 12: *Challenges and opportunities in the study of space and politics*
September 19: *Concepts and measurement of space*
3. Tools of Analysis
September 26: *Concepts of geographic analysis*
September 27: Lab session on ArcGIS (optional), 5-7PM
October 3: *Basics of Geographic Analysis in R:* accounting for the spatial structure of data in quantitative analysis
Note, this class session will be from 2-5PM.
October 4: Lab session on ArcGIS (optional), 5-7PM
4. Topics and Applications
October 10: *Variation:* how much spatial variation is there in behavior?
October 17: *The psychology of space*
October 24: *Space and groups:* how does space affect what we think of others?
October 31: *Context:* how does where you are affect your behavior?
November 7: *Movement:* why people live where they do and how does this affect politics?
November 14: *Boundaries:* the effect of geographic boundaries on behavior and research
November 21: *History's reach:* the legacy of past geography in modern politics
5. **November 28:** presentations and feedback

2 Assignments

You are required to do four assignments in this class: 1) regularly participate by spoken and electronic means; 2) make a primary contribution to the course wiki; 3) observe and map a political geography phenomenon in the Boston area; and 4) journal your reflections on the relevance of the weekly topic to your research.

During other weeks, I may assign exercises to help with skill 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 otherwise have known.

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 (details on how to collect this data will be offered later in the semester).

This assignment should be done with a partner. Each pair should turn in one written description of their findings on December 5. No two groups should map the same phenomenon. You will present your project and illicit feedback on November 28.

3 Grades

Each assignment described above is worth 25% of your grade.

4 Collaboration

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

5 Laptop and Phone Policy

In order to minimize distraction, unless otherwise noted, laptops and phones are not allowed to be used during class. If you need special accommodations for this policy, please speak to Ryan individually.

6 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.

Roger S. Bivand, Edzer J. Pebesma, and Virgilio Gómez-Rubio. *Applied Spatial Data Analysis with R*. Springer, New York, 2013.

Brian Min. *Power and the Vote: Elections and Electricity in the Developing World*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Ryan D. Enos. *The Space Between Us: Social Geography and Politics*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2017.

7 Readings by Date

Readings should be completed by the dates below. Note that only a few articles are assigned each week. You are expected to read these carefully, critically, and be ready to actively reflect on the content during class. Those under “Related Readings” are optional.

- **September 5:**

- D J Waldie. *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir*. Norton, New York, 2005.

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

- **September 12, Challenges and opportunities in the study of space and politics:**

- 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*, 29:169–170, 1934.
- S. Openshaw. *Concepts and Techniques in Modern Geography*, chapter The Modifiable Areal Unit Problem. Geo Books, Norwich, UK, 1983.
- Eitan D Hersh and Clayton Nall. The primacy of race in the geography of income-based voting: New evidence from public voting records. *American Journal of Political Science*, 2015.
- Andrew M Linke and John O’Loughlin. Reconceptualizing, measuring, and evaluating distance and context in the study of conflicts: Using survey data from the north caucasus of russia. *International Studies Review*, 17(1):107–125, 2015.

Related Readings:

- William Bunge. *Theoretical Geography*. Gleeprups, 1966.
- 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.
- John Agnew. Maps and models in political studies: a reply to comments. *Political Geography*, 15(2):165–167, 1996.
- Gary King. *A Solution to the Ecological Inference Problem: Reconstructing Individual Behavior from Aggregate Data*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1997.
- 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.
- Wendy K. Tam Cho and Thomas J. Rudolph. Emanating political participation: Untangling the spatial structure behind participation. *British Journal of Political Science*, 38(2):273–289, 2008.

- **September 19**, *Concepts and measurement of space*:

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)

Federico Echenique and Roland G Fryer Jr. A measure of segregation based on social interactions. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(2):441–485, 2007.

James G. Gimpel, Kimberly A. Karnes, John McTague, and Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz. Distance-decay in the political geography of friends-and-neighbors voting. *Political Geography*, 27:231–252, 2008.

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 behavior*, 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.

Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal. A spatial model for legislative roll call analysis. *American Journal of Political Science*, 29(2):357–384, May 1985.

Sean F Reardon and David O’Sullivan. Measures of spatial segregation. *Sociological Methodology*, 34(1):121–162, 2004.

Matthew A. Atkinson, Ryan D. Enos, and Seth J. Hill. Candidate faces and election outcomes: Is the face-vote correlation caused by candidate selection? *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 4:229–249, 2009.

William G Jacoby. Is there a culture war? conflicting value structures in american public opinion. *American Political Science Review*, 108(04):754–771, 2014.

- **September 26**, *Concepts of geographic analysis*:

See course website for GIS readings

Brian Min. *Power and the Vote: Elections and Electricity in the Developing World*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.

(chapters 2–6)

Related Readings:

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

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.

Wendy K. Tam Cho and James G. Gimpel. Geographic information systems and the spatial dimensions of american politics. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 15:443–460, 2012.

Rémi Louf and Marc Barthelemy. A typology of street patterns. *Journal of The Royal Society Interface*, 11(101):20140924, 2014.

Guenther Sagl, Eric Delmelle, and Elizabeth Delmelle. Mapping collective human activity in an urban environment based on mobile phone data. *Cartography and Geographic Information Science*, 41(3):272–285, 2014.

Mariaflavia Harari. Cities in bad shape: Urban geometry in india. Working Paper, University of Pennsylvania, 2016.

- **October 3**, *Basics of Geographic Analysis in R*:

As needed:

Roger S. Bivand, Edzer J. Pebesma, and Virgilio Gómez-Rubio. *Applied Spatial Data Analysis with R*. Springer, New York, 2013.

Related Readings:

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

Ernesto Calvo and Marcelo Escolar. The local voter: A geographically weighted approach to ecological inference. *American Politics Research*, 47(1):189–204, 2003.

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

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

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

- **October 10**, *variation*:

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*)

Daniel J Hopkins, Jonathan Mummolo, Victoria M Esses, Cheryl R Kaiser, Helen B Marrow, and Monica McDermott. Out of context: the absence of geographic variation in us immigrants’ perceptions of discrimination. *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 4(3):363–392, 2016.

Ron Johnston, Charles Pattie, Kelyvn Jones, and David Manley. Was the 2016 united states presidential contest a deviating election? continuity and change in the electoral map. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, pages 1–20, 2017.

Related Readings:

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

- Wendy K. Tam Cho. Contagion effects and ethnic contribution networks. *American Journal of Political Science*, 47(2):368–387, 2003.
- Edward L. Glaeser and Bryce A. Ward. Myths and realities of american political geography. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20(2):119–144, 2006.
- Brian F Schaffner. Support at any distance? the role of location and prejudice in public opposition to the “ground zero mosque”. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 46(4):753–759, 2013.
- Arindrajit Dube, Oeindrila Dube, and Omar García-Ponce. Cross-border spillover: U.s. gun laws and violence in mexico. *American Political Science Review*, 107(3):397–417, 2013.
- Seth Stephens-Davidowitz. The effects of racial animus on a black presidential candidate: Using google search data to find what surveys miss. *Journal of Public Economics*, 118:26–40, 2014.
- Ryan D Enos, Aaron Kaufman, and Melissa L Sands. Can violent protest change local policy support? evidence from the aftermath of the 1992 los angeles riot. Working Paper, Harvard University, 2016.
- Michael Hankinson. Do nimbys think outside of their neighborhood? free-riding and fairness in collective action. Working Paper, Harvard University, <http://mhankinson.com/assets/jmpWeb.pdf>, 2017.

- **October 17**, *the psychology of space*:

- Yaacov Trope and Nira Liberman. Temporal construal. *Psychological Review*, 110(3):403–421, 2003.
- Ana Guinote and Susan T Fiske. Being in the outgroup territory increases stereotypic perceptions of outgroups: Situational sources of category activation. *Group processes & intergroup relations*, 6(4):323–331, 2003.
- Keith B Maddox, David N Rapp, Sebastien Brion, and Holly A Taylor. Social influences on spatial memory. *Memory & Cognition*, 36(3):479–494, 2008.
- 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*, 1(1):1–18, 2012.

Related Readings:

- Kevin Lynch. *The Image of the City*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1960.
- S. Shamai. Sense of place: An empirical measurement. *Geoforum*, 22(3):347–358, 1991.
- Bibb Latané, James H. Liu, Andrzej Nowak, Michael Bonevento, and Long Zheng. Distance matters: Physical space and social impact. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 21(8):795–805, 1995.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

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.

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

- **October 24**, *space and groups*:

Ryan D. Enos. *The Space Between Us: Social Geography and Politics*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2017.

Related Readings:

Stelios Michalopoulos. The origins of ethnolinguistic diversity. *The American economic review*, 102(4):1508–1539, 2012.

Ruud Koopmans and Susanne Veit. Cooperation in ethnically diverse neighborhoods: A lost-letter experiment. *Political Psychology*, 2013.

Oliver Christ, Katharina Schmid, Simon Lolliot, Hermann Swart, Dietlind Stolle, Nicole Tausch, Ananthi Al Ramiah, Ulrich Wagner, Steven Vertovec, and Miles Hewstone. Contextual effect of positive intergroup contact on outgroup prejudice. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 111(11):3996–4000, 2014.

Laia Balcells, Lesley-Ann Daniels, and Abel Escribà-Folch. The determinants of low-intensity intergroup violence. the case of Northern Ireland. *Journal of Peace Research*, 2015.

Miles Hewstone. Consequences of diversity for social cohesion and prejudice: The missing dimension of intergroup contact. *Journal of Social Issues*, 71(2):417–438, 2015.

- **October 31**, *context*:

V.O. Key. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*. Knopf, New York, 1949.
(*chapters 1, 15, 23–25*)

Daniel J. Hopkins and Thad Williamson. Inactive by design? neighborhood design and political participation. *Political Behavior*, 34(1):79–101, 2010.

Robert J Sampson. Moving to inequality: Neighborhood effects and experiments meet social structure. *American Journal of Sociology*, 114(1):189–231, 2008.

Patrick Sharkey and Jacob W Faber. Where, when, why, and for whom do residential contexts matter? moving away from the dichotomous understanding of neighborhood effects. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 40:559–579, 2014.

Related Readings:

Andrés Villarreal. Political competition and violence in mexico: Hierarchical social control in local patronage structures. *American Sociological Review*, 67(4):477–498, 2002.

- Jeffery R. Kling, Jeffrey B. Liebman, and Lawrence F. Katz. Experimental analysis of neighborhood effects. *Econometrica*, 75(1):83–119, 2007.
- Fred Cutler. Context and attitude formation: Social interaction, default information, or local interests? *Political Geography*, 26(5):575–600, 2007.
- 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(1):115–134, 2011.
- 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):414–436, 2011.
- 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.
- Robert J. Sampson. *Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 2012.
- Claudine Gay. Moving to opportunity: The political effects of a housing mobility experiment. *Urban Affairs Review*, 48(2):147–179, 2012.
- Aina Gallego, Franz Buscha, Patrick Sturgis, and Daniel Oberski. Places and preferences: A longitudinal analysis of self-selection and contextual effects. *British Journal of Political Science*, 46:529–550, 2016.

• **November 7, movement:**

- Thomas C. Schelling. Dynamic models of segregation. *Journal of Mathematical Sociology*, 1(2):143–186, 1971.
- Charles M. Tiebout. A pure theory of local expenditures. *Journal of Political Economy*, 64(5):416–424, 1956.
- Clayton Nall. The political consequences of spatial policies: How interstate highways facilitated geographic polarization. *The Journal of Politics*, 77(2):394–406, 2015.
- Jonathan Mummolo and Clayton Nall. Why partisans do not sort: The constraints on political segregation. *The Journal of Politics*, 79(1):45–59, 2017.
- Jowei Chen and Jonathan Rodden. Unintentional gerrymandering: Political geography and electoral bias in legislatures. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 2013.

Related Readings:

- Jane Jacobs. *The death and life of great American cities*. Vintage, 1992.
- 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, 2006.
- 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):1–24, 2008.

David Card. Immigration and inequality. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2009.

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

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.

Wendy K Tam Cho, James G Gimpel, and Iris S Hui. Voter migration and the geographic sorting of the american electorate. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 103(4):856–870, 2013.

Ron Johnston, David Manley, and Kelvyn Jones. Spatial polarization of presidential voting in the united states, 1992–2012: The “big sort” revisited. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 106(5):1047–1062, 2016.

• **November 14, boundaries:**

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

(chapters 2–4)

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

Luke Keele and Rocío Titiunik. Natural experiments based on geography. *Political Science Research and Methods*, 4(1):65–95, 2016.

Joscha Legewie and Merlin Schaeffer. Contested boundaries: Explaining where ethnoracial diversity provokes neighborhood conflict. *American Journal of Sociology*, 122(1):125–161, 2016.

Related Readings:

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):772–793, 1994.

Elisabeth R. Gerber and Jeffrey B. Lewis. Beyond the median: Voter preferences, district heterogeneity, and political representation. *The Journal of Political Economy*, 112(6):1364–1383, 2004.

Wendy K Tam Cho and Erinn P Nicley. Geographic proximity versus institutions: evaluating borders as real political boundaries. *American Politics Research*, 36(6):803–823, 2008.

Stephen Gibbons and Stephen Machin. Valuing school quality, better transport, and lower crime: evidence from house prices. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 24(1):99–119, 2008.

Daniel J. Hopkins. Translating into votes: The electoral impacts of spanish-language ballots. *American Journal of Political Science*, 55(4):814–830, 2011.

Nahomi Ichino and Noah L. Nathan. Crossing the line: Local ethnic geography and voting in ghana. *American Political Science Review*, pages 1–18, 2012.

Luke J Keele and Rocío Titiunik. Geographic boundaries as regression discontinuities. *Political Analysis*, 23(1):127–155, 2014.

Matthew Adam Kocher and Nuno P Monteiro. What's in a line? natural experiments and the line of demarcation in wwii occupied france. Working Paper, Yale University, 2015.

Bernard L Fraga. Redistricting and the causal impact of race on voter turnout. *The Journal of Politics*, 78(1):19–34, 2016.

Ryan D. Enos and Anthony Fowler. Aggregate effects of large-scale campaigns on voter turnout, 2016.

John A Henderson, Jasjeet S Sekhon, and Rocío Titiunik. Cause or effect? turnout in hispanic majority-minority districts. *Political Analysis*, 24(3):404–412, 2016.

Hugh Macartney and John D Singleton. School boards and student segregation. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2017.

Anna Getmansky, Guy Grossman, and Austin L Wright. Border walls and the economics of crime. Working Paper, University of Essex, 2017.

- **November 21**, *history's reach*:

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

Chapters TBD

Volha Charnysh. Historical legacies of interethnic competition anti-semitism and the eu referendum in poland. *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(13):1711–1745, 2015.

Volha Charnysh and Evgeny Finkel. The death camp eldorado: Political and economic effects of mass violence. *American Political Science Review*, pages 1–18, 2017.

Related Readings:

James G. Gimpel and Wendy K. Tam Cho. The persistence of white ethnicity in new england politics. *Political Geography*, 23:987–1008, 2004.