

***Political Science 344***  
***Politics and Geography***

Mondays, 1:14-4:05 PM  
400 Encina Hall West  
Instructors: Karen Long Jusko and Jonathan Rodden

This course introduces students to basic techniques for the exploration of political and economic geography while covering a range of substantive themes. Students will learn to produce and analyze maps and learn the basics of spatial data analysis, and apply these skills to a range of exciting questions at the intersection of political and economic geography.

This course begins with a brisk overview of attempts to answer some of the basic questions of economic geography and urban economics. What explains the spatial location of workers, firms, and economic activity? What explains the rise (and fall) of cities, suburbs, and residential segregation around the world? Can we draw any general conclusions about the spatial location of income groups?

We start with these questions in part because they have a variety of potential political consequences that have largely been ignored by political scientists, and the goal of the course is to explore them. First, we ask whether lessons from urban economics and economic geography have any implications for the geography of political preferences and voting behavior, and explore the ways in which the geographic distribution of preferences might interact with electoral institutions. Next, we explore geographic underpinnings of sectionalism, regionalism, and political polarization, revisiting and hopefully moving beyond debates about “red states and blue states.” We then examine the implications of geography for theories and empirical analyses of inter-personal redistribution and the welfare state. We conclude with a week on macro-historical theories in which current political and economic outcomes are the product of some geographic factor whose impact can be traced back hundreds of years.

This is a specialized course for graduate students whose research interests touch upon political geography. Familiarity with basic tools of quantitative analysis, especially regression analysis, is assumed. Students will become familiar with ArcGIS and GeoDa software and learn the basics of creating maps, importing data, and analyzing spatial data. Classroom time will be split between discussions of the substantive readings and building tools of spatial analysis, and students will work individually and in groups with the software and tutorials. While we cover most of the basics that will be useful to political scientists, students interested in a full-fledged spatial statistics course will want to consider Statistics 253 and 352.

In addition to several analytical assignments, students will write a short final paper. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Group analytical assignment, 30 percent
- Spatial model assignment, 10 percent
- Final paper, 30 percent
- Participation, 30 percent

The following books are available for purchase at the Campus Book Store or online:

- Paul Krugman. 1991. *Geography and Trade*. MIT Press.
- Nolan McCarty, Keith Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 2006. *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches*. MIT Press.
- Robert Haining. 2003. *Spatial Data Analysis: Theory and Practice*. Cambridge. Pages 1-178.
- ESRI. 2004. *Getting to Know ArcGIS Desktop*. ESRI Press. [OPTIONAL]

ArcGIS and documentation can be downloaded here:

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/gis/download.html>

GeoDa and documentation, including tutorials, can be downloaded here:

<https://www.geoda.uiuc.edu/>

#### **January 14** *Course Introduction*

*Introduction to ArcGIS and other GIS resources at Stanford (Mindy Syfert)*

Immediately after the first session, download the software or visit one of the labs and familiarize yourself with the basics.

#### **January 21** *Geography, Trade, and Agglomeration Economies* (MLK Day, must reschedule for later in the week).

- Paul Krugman. 1991. *Geography and Trade*. MIT Press.
- Stuart Rosenthal and William Strange. 2004. "Evidence on the Nature and Sources of Agglomeration Economies," in *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, vol. 4.
- Glenn Ellison and Edward Glaeser. 1997. "Geographic Concentration in U.S. Manufacturing Industries: A Dartboard Approach." *Journal of Political Economy* 105, 5.
- Sukkoo Kim and Robert Margo. 2004. "Historical Perspectives on U.S. Economic Geography," in *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, vol. 4.

Recommended:

- Keith Head and Thierry Mayer. 2004. "The Empirics of Agglomeration and Trade," in *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, vol. 4., edited by Vernon Henderson and J-F Thisse. Elsevier. 2004. Available at: <http://www.econ.brown.edu/faculty/henderson/neat1.pdf>
- Pierre-Philippe Combes and Henry Overman. 2004. "The Spatial Distribution of Economic Activities in the European Union," in *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, vol. 4.
- Masahisa Fujita, J. Vernon Henderson, Yoshitsugu Kanemoto, and Tomoyo Mori, "Spatial Distribution of Economic Activities in Japan and China," in *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, vol. 4.

Discussion questions:

- What are the implications of the "New Economic Geography" for politics?
- More specifically, what are the implications for the geographic distribution of preferences related to income redistribution, regulation, and other government policies?
- What is the political relevance of "core" and "periphery" in developed and developing countries?
- If regions appear to be characterized by distinctive political preferences, is this driven by treatment or selection effects? How would we know the difference?
- What does the neoclassical model imply about the convergence of incomes across regions? What does the NEG view imply? What are the political implications of both?

[Warm-up mapping exercise: Familiarize yourself with the basics of ArcGIS. Find shapefiles and relevant data, and generate a map that displays some aspect of economic production in a country that interests you. Circulate before class and bring a hard copy.]

**January 28** *Cities and Urban Form*

- Alex Nas, Richard Arnott, and Kenneth Small. 1998. "Urban Spatial Structure." *Journal of Economic Literature* XXXVI (September), pages 1426-64.
- Peter Mieszkowski, Peter and Edwin Mills. 1993. "The Causes of Metropolitan Suburbanization." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 7, No. 3. (Summer), pages 135-147.
- Edward Glaeser, Matthew Kahn, and Jordan Rappaport. 2007. "Why do the Poor Live in Cities? The Role of Public Transportation." *Journal of Urban Economics*. [http://mek1966.googlepages.com/kahn\\_jue3.pdf](http://mek1966.googlepages.com/kahn_jue3.pdf)
- Edward Glaeser, Jed Kolko, and Albert Saiz. 2001. "Consumer City." *Journal of Economic Geography* 1: 27-50.

- Edward Glaeser. Review of Richard Florida, *The Rise of the Creative Class*. [http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/glaeser/files/Review\\_Florida.pdf](http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/glaeser/files/Review_Florida.pdf)
- Edward Glaeser and Giacomo Ponzetto. 2007. "Did the Death of Distance Hurt Detroit and Help New York?" Working paper. Harvard University. <http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/glaeser/files/disdeath.pdf>
- Edward Glaeser, Joseph Gyourko, and Raven Saks. 2005. "Urban Decline and Durable Housing." *Journal of Political Economy* 115(2): 346-375.
- Alberto Ades and Edward Glaeser. 1995. "Trade and Circuses: Explaining Urban Giants." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 110(1): 195-227.
- Paul Hohenberg. 2004. "The Historical Geography of European Cities: An Interpretive Essay." *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, Volume 4. Elsevier

#### Discussion Questions:

- This week's readings contain a number of interesting cross-sectional and diachronic hypotheses about urban form and the geographic distribution of income. What are they? How might they be tested?
- What are the implications of cross-country and cross-region differences in urban form for politics?
- Look at Figures 1 and 2 in Glaeser, Kahn, and Rappaport. How might similar graphs for European, Latin American, or African cities look different? Why, and with what implications?

#### **February 4    *Substantive Topic: Geography, preferences, and electoral institutions***

##### ***Methods Topic: Working with Spatial Data***

- Jonathan Rodden. 2007. "Political Geography and Electoral Rules: Why Single-Member Districts are bad for the Left." Working paper, Stanford.
- Burt Monroe. 2002. "Electoral Systems and Unimagined Consequences: Partisan Effects of Districted Proportional Representation." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 46, No. 1: 67-89.
- Charles Cameron, David Epstein, and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1996. "Do Majority-Minority Districts Maximize Substantive Black Representation in Congress?" *American Political Science Review* 90, 4.

- Shotts, Kenneth. 2003. "Does Redistricting Cause Conservative Policy Outcomes? Policy Preferences of Southern Representatives in the 1980s and 1990s." *The Journal of Politics* 65: 216-226.
- David Lublin and Stephen Voss. 2003. "The Missing Middle." *Journal of Politics* 65, 1: 227-237.
- For those especially interested in this debate (not required): Delia Grigg and Jonathan Katz. "The Impact of Majority-Minority Districts on Congressional Elections." Working paper. Available at: [http://www.stat.columbia.edu/~gelman/stuff\\_for\\_blog/Grigg\\_Katz\\_MPSA2005.pdf](http://www.stat.columbia.edu/~gelman/stuff_for_blog/Grigg_Katz_MPSA2005.pdf)
- Robert Haining. 2003. *Spatial Data Analysis: Theory and Practice*. Cambridge. Pages 1-178.

Discussion questions: To be added.

**February 11 *Substantive Topic: Income, preferences, and polarization***

***Methods Topic: Exploratory spatial data analysis***

- Nolan McCarty, Keith Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 2006. *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches*. MIT Press.
- Gelman, Andrew, Boris Shor, Joseph Bafumi, and David Park. "Rich State, Poor State, Red State, Blue State: What's the Matter with Connecticut?" Unpublished paper, Columbia. CHECK WEB PAGE FOR UPDATE. Current version: <http://www.childpolicy.org/whatsnew/RichStatePoorStateRedStateBlueState2005.pdf>
- Edward Glaeser and Bryce Ward. "Myths and Realities of American Political Geography." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Paper available here: [http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/research/wpaper.nsf/d745629e080d1fe88525698900714934/a8cbf684f8fe2fe6852571160051968c/\\$FILE/rwp\\_06\\_007\\_glaeser\\_SSRN.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/research/wpaper.nsf/d745629e080d1fe88525698900714934/a8cbf684f8fe2fe6852571160051968c/$FILE/rwp_06_007_glaeser_SSRN.pdf)
- Stephen Ansolabehere, Jonathan Rodden, and James Snyder. "Purple America." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Available here: [http://web.mit.edu/jrodde/www/materials/purple\\_america\\_2006.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/jrodde/www/materials/purple_america_2006.pdf)
- Robert Haining. 2003. *Spatial Data Analysis: Theory and Practice*. Cambridge. Pages 181-270.

- Work through the online GeoDa tutorial, lessons 7-21. (Get through as much as possible before the meeting, but you will have an extra week to finish).

Discussion questions: To be added.

**February 18 *President's Day***

No meeting. Time to work on group project.

[GROUP PROJECT DUE FEBRUARY 21]

**February 25 *Methods Topic: Mapping income and preferences***

Presentations of group projects

***Substantive Topic: Geography, inter-personal redistribution, and the welfare state***

- Torsten Persson and Guido Tabellini. 2000. *Political Economics*. MIT Press. Chapters 8-9.
- Torsten Persson and Guido Tabellini. 2003. *The Economic Effects of Constitutions*. MIT Press. Chapter 6.
- Karen Long Jusko. TBA
- Beramendi, Pablo. 2007. "Inequality and the Territorial Fragmentation of Solidarity." *International Organization* 61: 783-820.

Discussion questions: To be added.

**March 3 *Substantive topics: Contextual effects, inter-group conflict***

***Methods topic: Estimating spatial models***

- James Gimpel and Wendy Tam Cho. 2004. "The persistence of white ethnicity in New England politics." *Political Geography* 23: 987-1008.
- Wendy Tam Cho, James Gimpel, and Joshua Dyck. "Residential Concentration, Political Socialization, and Voter Turnout." *The Journal of Politics* 68, 1: 156-67.
- Jason Lyall. No date. "Landscapes of Violence: A Comparative Study of Insurgency in the Northern Caucasus." Working paper, Princeton University.

- Lars-Erik Cederman, Luc Girardin, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2007. "Ethno-Nationalist Triads: Assessing the Influence of Kin Groups on Civil Wars." Working paper, ETH Zurich.
- Nils Weidmann. 2007. "From Sparks to Prairie Fires: Spatial Mechanisms of Group Mobilization." Working paper, ETH Zurich.
- Håvard Hegre, Gudrun Østby, and Clionadh Raleigh. "Economic Deprivation and Civil War Events: A Disaggregated Study of Liberia. Working paper, PRIO, Oslo.
- Robert Haining. 2003. *Spatial Data Analysis: Theory and Practice*. Cambridge. Pages 289-378.
- Work through Exercises 22-25 in the GeoDa tutorial.

Recommended:

- Ernesto Calvo and Marcelo Escobar. "The Local Voter: A Geographically Weighted Approach to Ecological Inference." *American Journal of Political Science* 47, 1: 189-204.
- Steven Durlauf. 2004. "Neighborhood Effects." In *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, vol. 4, edited by Vernon Henderson and J-F Thisse. Elsevier.

Discussion questions: To be added

[BEGIN WORK ON SECOND ASSIGNMENT APPLYING SPATIAL REGRESSION TECHNIQUES TO YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION]

**March 10**     ***Substantive topics: Is geography fate? Geography, history, and identification strategies***

***Methods Topics: Geo-coding, dealing with historical maps***

This week will include a mini-lecture on geo-coding and working with historical maps and data. It will also include a presentation of work in progress by Alberto Diaz-Cayeros.

Students will also present brief summaries of their work in progress.

- Alberto Diaz-Cayeros. TBA
- Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. 2002. "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution." *Quarterly Journal of Economic* 117, 4: 1231-94.

- Stanley Engerman and Kenneth Sokoloff. 1997. "Factor Endowments, Institutions, and Differential Paths of Growth among New World Economies." In Stephen Haber, ed., *How Latin America Fell Behind*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Joana Naritomi, Rodrigo Soares, and Juliano Assunção. 2007. "Rent Seeking and the Unveiling of 'De Facto' Institutions: Development and Colonial Heritage within Brazil." Working paper, PUC-Rio.
- Abhijit Banerjee and Lakshmi Iyer. 2005. "History, Institutions, and Economic Performance: The Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India. *American Economic Review* 94, 4: 1190-1213.
- Elizabeth Ananat. 2007. "The Wrong Side(s) of the Tracks: The Effect of Racial Segregation on City Outcomes." Working paper, Duke University.
- Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. 2005. "The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth." *American Economic Review* 95, 3: 546-580.
- Saumitra Jha. 2006. "Trade, Institutions, and Religious Tolerance: Evidence from India." Working Paper. Harvard Academy.
- Edward Whiting Fox. 1989. "The Argument: Some Reinforcements and Projections." In Eugene Genovese and Leonard Hochberg, eds., *Geographic Perspectives in History*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell. Pages 331-342.

[SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS MARCH 10]

[FINAL PAPER DUE AT END OF TERM]