# Learning Contract

In Neighborhood Analysis, I agree to work towards a grade of “A-”. I have met with Professor Greenlee to discuss the details of this agreement on \_\_ February 2021. Any changes to this agreement will require an updating of this contract in consultation with Professor Greenlee, and must be made by 22 March 2021. In addition to meeting all the baseline requirements for the course, I would like to add the following learning and engagement goals:

### Extensions

* Task Description: The completed project at the end of the semester will be closely aligned to my Capstone Project and must therefore by very thorough. This class, and the project in specific, will be a vehicle for the completion of my capstone and should include sections in addition to what is required, such as (potentially) literature reviews, thorough methodologies, discussions, conclusions, recommendations, contributions to the field, etc.
* Learning Goal: The completed project should demonstrate strong R analysis capabilities that can be included as the backbone of the data analysis in my capstone.
* Reconciliation Period: PDF copies of our capstone are tentatively due on 14 May, one week after the final project is due. The final project should be an indicator of how well I am able to integrate R analysis into my capstone before its due date. Any further additions in the final week of work after the final project due date and before the capstone due date may also be potentially considered.

### Assignments

* Task Description: Submit quality Class Reflections, two Lab Notebooks, Term Project Proposal, Term Project Background, Completed Project, and Project Presentation on time.
* Learning Goal: Satisfactory completion of assignments on a timely manner.
* Reconciliation Period: All these assignments should be delivered within 24 hours of the due date.

### Class Interaction

* Task Description: Attend Class Regularly and be absent from no more than two (2) course sessions over the course of the semester, instead of the three (3) mentioned in the syllabus.
  + Learning Goal: Ask questions, especially during labs, when challenges arise.
  + Reconciliation Period: Continuous during class and lab sessions.
* Task Description: Participate in class discussions and have the camera turned on during every class period. I am in a household with unstable internet, which causes my Zoom to sporadically shut down when I lose internet. This may be an occasional obstacle to participation and visibility.
  + Learning Goal: Learn how to navigate class and life with inevitable unstable internet.
  + Reconciliation Period: Continuous participation in class.
* Task Description: Submit timely work by the end of the day on the day of the deadline. Work submitted within 24 hours of the due date should be late, and anything beyond that should be ignored.
  + Learning Goal: Continuously submitting assignments on time, even during busy times in the semester, demonstrate good time management and planning ahead. I aim to adhere to timeliness.
  + Reconciliation Period: Within 24 hours of assignment due date.

**Contract Rationale**

**Learning Goals:** What is it that you hope to learn by taking this class? Provide details that contextualize these goals within your academic and professional goals.

I think learning R will allow me to tell more focused stories. As of now, my capstone seeks to understand Latino livelihoods across the country – meaning I need to understand similarities and differences in Latinos in rural Kansas and metropolitan Los Angeles alike. My professional goals include uplifting and strengthening the Latino community in the political and economic arena. The stories I interpret and uncover through R will hopefully have policy implications for the Latino community.

**Strengths:** What do you see as the strengths that you bring to this class? How do you propose leveraging those strengths in service of our teaching and learning this semester?

I bring critical thinking, analytical skills, and focus to this class. Although this class may be heavily technical in terms of learning a language, there is benefit in having the ability to think about which variables may or may not matter, etc. I know what my interests are and that drives me to put the effort into learning the language and producing a very valuable final project. Furthermore, I have mutual interests with some of my classmates and it will be productive to bounce ideas off each other and encourage hard work.

**Areas for Improvement:** What do you see as some areas where you hope to improve this semester? What areas of growth do you want to focus on? What forms of support and feedback will help you to improve these areas?

I tried learning R during last year’s workshop, and it did not go well. I have had much more success so far this year and I hope to continue in this direction. Understanding the application of this language before graduation is my foremost goal for this class. It would be ideal to be in a position where I can continue learning on my own after graduation, too.

Signed Agreed to by

Christopher Ackerman-Avila \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_