# 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 05, 2021**. Any changes to this agreement will require an updating of this contract in consultation with Professor Greenlee, and may must be made by March 22, 2021. In addition to meeting all the baseline requirements for the course, I would like to add the following learning and engagement goals:

Item 1

* **Task Description** – Protype Interface for Housing SDSS (as part of Term Assignment)
* **Learning Goal**: Distill existing research to create a conceptual framework and a prototype interface for a Housing Spatial Decision Support System using R as the primary tool for analysis and data visualization:
  + Develop a conceptual framework of measurable outcomes for Housing SDSS (key parameters for inputs, and analytical frameworks like housing choice algorithms)
  + Identify candidate case study cities dealing with housing crisis (preliminary candidates include New York, Chicago, and San Francisco)
  + Gather and analyze data to identify target audience/clients within the city
  + Using demographic characteristics and housing needs to design a user-sensitive prototype interface
* **Reconciliation Period**: April 30

Item 2

* **Task Description**: Neighborhood Analysis Portfolio
* **Learning Goal**: Use of Markdown Html pages to construct a small website. Contents of the website shall include –
  + Work done on the Term Assignment - Housing Spatial Decision Support System for an American City including –
    - Background Research-Aims, Objectives, Scope and Methodology of the Study
    - Conceptual Framework for the SDSS
    - Case Study of demographic characteristics and housing typologies used to identify clientele (using tidyverse, tidycensus and ggplot)
    - Application of the conceptual SDSS through a prototype interface & feedback received (if any).
  + Effort will be directed towards making the page easy to access and share.
* **Reconciliation Period**: April 30

Item 3

* Task Description: Polished Lab Notebooks (2)
* Learning Goal: Extended analysis of chosen topics
  + Analyzing Population Distributions and Segregation
  + The Geography of Evictions
    - – Efforts will be made towards utilizing the lab notebooks to advance work on Term Assignment
* Reconciliation Period: 1. Analyzing Population Distributions and Segregation – March 15

2. The Geography of Evictions – April 14

**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 would like to use this class to complement my passion for information science and urban analytics with real world skills in programming (through R). In my previous work, I have limited myself to conceptualizations of Spatial Decision Support Systems, because I did not possess the technical skills needed to implement my project. Through this class I want to learn enough coding and data visualization to bring my conceptual skills closer to practical use.

**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 believe my skill lies in the ability to conceptualize analytical frameworks for planning action/decision making. My prior work in database design and conceptualization of planning systems has exposed me to the data and analysis needs of urban planning – what needs to go into a planning decision making system – what information to procure and their relative importance within the scheme of planning action is something I think I can identify with nuance.

Keeping this background in mind I believe I will be able to add to the class discussions by extricating the logic of /and questioning the rationale behind the analytical frameworks that will be discussed in class. I am also a very holistic learner, and my academic ecosystem goes beyond the classroom and into the realm of public life. I think students will benefit from my myriad experiences of analysing social circumstances in India to reveal insights on international planning/public data practices.

**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?

In terms of learning a new programming language and integrating it into the way I think about urban planning, consistency and persistence are very special to me. I see myself getting overwhelmed by the workload of the other courses that I am taking this semester, although Neighborhood Analysis is by far the most satisfying one of them (to me, personally). I would like to improve on my ability to sit and code regularly and consistently and engage with the course more intentionally.

In terms of support/feedback, I think it would help me greatly if there could be a fortnightly check-in to ask me about

* The progress I have made in the last couple of weeks,
* How I have improved
* Whether I am managing to keep up as expectations from multiple courses rise with time.

In general, I think the course setting (and teaching) involves a nurturing, non-judgmental model of pedagogy which suits me very well and keeps my motivation up and allows me to assume more agency over the work.

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(Arpita Banerjee) (Andrew J. Greenlee)