R for GIS and Political Geography

COURSE INFORMATION	*Term:* Spring 2021 (mod credit)	*Instructor:* Jack Reilly
	Level: Intermediate Workshop	*live text:* `ncfpolgeo.slack.com`
	Meet: Friday, 4:30-5:20	*E-mail:* jreilly@ncf.edu
	Type: Remote *(synchronous or asynchronous)*	*Office Hours:* Fridays, 9-11
	Syllabus Revision: February 5, 2021	*Appointments:* jacklreilly.com/appointments

DESCRIPTION

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) are an increasingly important and useful tool in the creation of maps and in the analysis of geographic data in the social sciences. In this mod workshop course, we will learn how to make use of the open source software R as a GIS, with a special focus on the use of R to create maps and other graphical representations of spatial data.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course can be taken in one of two ways: as a remote synchronous workshop, or as an asynchronous workshop. Students taking the course need to choose a track at the beginning and stick with it, as course requirements are slightly different in each track.

SIBLING COURSES

This course is a full term for mod credit course (a half credit course) with two sibling half-semester courses: *Political Geography*, a mod1 seminar course, and *Rural Politics*, a mod2 seminar course. Students looking for a whole course unit in political geography are encouraged to consider one or both of those courses in addition to this one.

PREREQUISITES

Required: Introductory work in any social science, statistics, or computation. Enrollment is at the discretion of the instructor, who may waive pre-requisites in special circumstances.

Materials

BOOKS

Required

- Brunsdon and Comber, *An Introduction to R for Spatial Analysis & Mapping*

TECHNOLOGY

This is a remote course. As such, to successfully complete the course, you will need internet access and a device capable of running or accessing the following software: Canvas, Zoom, Google Drive, and Slack. You will also need the ability to play mp3 audio files and mp4 video files. You may find all electronic course resources linked from the course Canvas page or course google drive folder.

While no familiarity with R is presumed for this course, prior experience in an introductory statistical, quantitative, or computational class is beneficial.