

# Social Networks, Political Geography, and the Context of Political Behavior

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COURSE INFORMATION	<i>Term:</i> Spring 2023 <i>Level:</i> Advanced Seminar <i>Meet:</i> Wednesdays 12:30-3:20 <i>Room:</i> College Hall 214 <i>Syllabus Revision:</i> January 26, 2023	<i>Instructor:</i> Jack Reilly <i>E-mail:</i> <a href="mailto:jreilly@ncf.edu">jreilly@ncf.edu</a> <i>Office:</i> Social Sciences 205 <i>Office Hours:</i> T 12-2 (Office), W 10-11 (Zoom) <i>Appointments:</i> <a href="http://jacklreilly.com/appointments">jacklreilly.com/appointments</a>
DESCRIPTION	This advanced seminar examines the relationship between social context and political behavior, with a particular emphasis on the role of social networks and political geography. Topics to be addressed include voting, communication, social influence, comparative political contexts, the inclusion of geographic, network, and contextual-level variables in the analysis of political behavior, and the role of social space in the political activity of citizens, legislators, and policymakers.	
PREREQUISITES	<i>Required:</i> an introductory course in political science (preferably American Politics or Comparative Politics), intermediate coursework in political science, geography, or social psychology, or permission of the instructor.  <i>Co-requisite:</i> (1) a course on research design in the social sciences, to be completed before or alongside this course <i>or</i> (2) a course on introductory statistics, to be completed before or alongside this course. Both preferred.  <i>Recommended:</i> A second-level statistics course (such as <i>Quantitative Analysis of Political Data</i> , <i>Advanced Statistics for Psychology</i> , <i>Dealing with Data II</i> , <i>Econometrics</i> , etc) is useful for those wishing to take the research paper option, but not required.	
INTERESTED?	If you'd like to take the course, <b>let me know!</b> <a href="http://jacklreilly.com/interest">http://jacklreilly.com/interest</a> (Make sure that you're logged in to your NCF google account).	

## Books and Software

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BOOKS	Most of our reading for the course will be scholarly articles available electronically directly from journals. Accordingly, you should <b>budget \$30</b> for printing articles over the course of the semester. (This is easily less than the cost of additional readers.) We will occasionally engage in close reading of articles and you will need to be able to reference them in class.
SOFTWARE	While this is not a course on statistics, computational social science, or programming, we will introduce formal social network analysis (SNA), including and describing and visualizing social networks using statistical software. Primarily, we will use R, a free open-source statistics environment, and <i>Statnet</i> , a free suite of R packages for network analysis. No prior knowledge of R is required.

## Course Requirements

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### OVERVIEW

Satisfactory completion of the course requires completion of the following:

1. Daily Preparation
  - (a) Reading
  - (b) Participation
  - (c) Discussion Questions
2. Class Contributions
  - (a) Discussion Leadership
  - (b) Reaction Paper
  - (c) Enrichment Reading Selection
  - (d) Article Presentation
3. Assignments
  - (a) Literature Search Assignment
  - (b) Quantitative Assignments
4. Final Project
  - (a) "Pre-Registration" Assignment
  - (b) Final Presentation
  - (c) Peer Review & Discussant Duties
  - (d) Final Research Paper