

**Week 1: Introductions****Thursday Sept 8: Initial Meeting**

Activity: Orientation to class

Worksheet: access to computing stuff.

Readings (aloud in class):

- John Winthrop, from “A Model of Christian Charity” ([http://winthropsociety.com/doc\\_charity.php](http://winthropsociety.com/doc_charity.php))

**Give Assignment: Mental Maps of students’ neighborhoods**

**Unit 1: Maps, Texts, Networks****Week 2: Maps****Monday Sept 12: Short History of Boston**

Activity: Investigate historical maps at the Leventhal Map Center

Readings Due:

- Robert Allison, *A Short History of Boston*, chapters 1-3
- Nedra Reynolds, “Maps of the Everyday: Habitual Pathways and Contested Places”

→ **Before next class:** install QGIS (<http://www.qgis.org/en/site/>) and the Open Layers plugin. See instructions for both at <http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/qgis-layers>

- Download files for Thursday’s in-class workshop

**Wednesday, September 14**

**Assignment Due: Mental Maps**

**Thursday Sept 15: GIS**

Activity: Georectification in GIS

Readings:

- Denis Wood, “A Map is an Image Proclaiming Its Objective Neutrality”
- Mark Monmonier, “Lying with Maps”

Useful Resources:

- Jim Clifford, Josh MacFadyen, and Daniel Macfarlane, “Georeferencing in QGIS 2.0” (<http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/georeferencing-qgis>) and “Creating New Vector Layers in QGIS 2.0” (<http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/vector-layers-qgis>)

**Give assignment: Shoreline and Streetcar Tracing in GIS**

**Week 3: Texts****Monday Sept 19: Data is Data**

Activity: Read census data schema 1800-2000 and individual census records for NU area

Readings:

- *SHB*, chapter 4
- danah boyd and Kate Crawford, “Critical Questions for Big Data” (<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1369118X.2012.6>)
- Number Crunching without Programming: The Evolution of Spreadsheet Usability. Martin Campbell-Kelly
- A Spreadsheet way of knowledge: Stephen Levy, Harper’s Magazine, 1984

**Thursday Sept 22: NU Histories****CHANGE OF LOCATION: Northeastern Archives, Snell 90SL**

- Short History of Boston, chapters 1-4, adjusted due date.

Activity: Northeastern Archives and Special Collection

**Give Assignment: Investigating an Archival Data Source**

→ Before next class: install Gephi (<https://gephi.org/>)

**Week 4: Networks****Monday Sept 26: The Hub of the Universe**

Activity: The structure of networks and network data

Readings:

- Oliver Wendell Holmes, from “The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table” <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1858/04/the-autocrat-of-the-breakfast-table/304375/>); read only to the line “All are but parts of one stupendous HULL!”
- Browse the Boston-themed issue of *Life* magazine from October 19, 1911. In particular, read “Hail Boston!” (pg. 653), “Boston Expurgata” (pg. 657), “Boston” (pg. 665), “The Cerebral City” (pg. 666), and the comics on pgs. 668-669 (<https://books.google.com/books?id=pr5GAQAIAAJ&pg=PA645#v=onepage&q&f=false>)
- Scott Weingart, “Demystifying Networks, Part I & II” (<http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/1-1/demystifying-networks-by-scott-weingart/>)

**5pm Assignment Due: Shoreline and Streetcar Tracing in GIS**

**Thursday Sept 29: Six Degrees of Paul Revere**

Activity: Visualizing the Sons of Liberty network using Gephi

Readings:

- Vannevar Bush, “As We May Think” (<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1945/07/as-we-may-think/303881/>) — Kieran Healy, “Using Metadata to Find Paul Revere” (<https://kieranhealy.org/blog/archives/2013/06/09/using-metadata-to-find-paul-revere/>)

**Unit 2: Visualization**

**Week 5: Viz**

**Monday October 3: History of Visualization**

Activity: Sorting history of visualizations

Readings:

- Edward Tufte, *Envisioning Information*
- Selections from Bostonography the blog (<http://bostonography.com/>), posted online.
- Mushon Zer-Aviv, “If Everything is a Network, Nothing is a Network”, <http://visualisingadvocacy.org/blog/if-everything-network-nothing-network>

**Thursday October 6: Designing for 3D Printing**

Activity: Design workshop

\*\*Note:

Readings:

- Review Tufte and browse, reading a few items in detail, <http://bostonography.com/>.
- **OPTIONAL:** Johanna Drucker, “Humanities Approaches to Graphical Display” (<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/5/1/00>)
- **OPTIONAL:** Jim Miller, “Is Bad Writing Necessary?”

*Friday, October 7: Assignment Due, Final Project Idea Post #1*

**Unit 3: Education**

*Monday, October 10: Assignment Due, Investigating an Archival Data Source*

**Week 6: Boston Data****Monday October 10: No class, Columbus Day****Thursday October 13: Data Field Trip to the *Boston Globe***

Readings: data journalism exemplars.

**Spotlight “Shadow Campus” report on student housing in Boston; Pulitzer prize finalist**

- Read [part 2](#) and [part 3](#). Pay attention to what sort of data they use and how they present it; look for Northeastern’s place there and in the [interactive database](#).
- Also browse the [main web page for the full spotlight series](#) on the shadow campus.

**Also for context, look at two other pieces of data journalism.**

- [Spies in the skies, BuzzFeed news](#)
- [Arresting Words, Boston Globe](#)

**Week 7: Not Reading A to X****Monday October 17: Computational Reading**→ For Monday: install Rstudio (<https://www.rstudio.com/>). Installation instructions online under “Handouts.”

In-class discussion: data journalism debriefing.

Readings:

- Michel et al, “Quantitative analysis of culture using millions of digitized books”
- James F. English and Ted Underwood, “Shifting Scales Between Literature and Social Science”

**Thursday October 20: Text by the numbers**Note: You *do not* need to read Henry Adams and Malcolm X before class. You *must* have installed Rstudio on the computer you bring to class following the instructions [here](#)

Activity: Text analysis of opening chapters of of Henry Adams and Malcolm X.

Lecture/Activity: The statistics of text

**Week 8: Education****Monday October 24: Class cancelled.****Thursday October 27: Distant and close Boston bios**

Readings:

- Henry Adams, “Quincy” and “Boston” from *The Education of Henry Adams* ([http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/HADAMS/ha\\_hon](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/HADAMS/ha_hon))
- Malcolm X, “Homeboy,” “Laura,” “Caught,” and “Satan” from *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

**Give Assignment: Not Reading a Bostonian Biography**

**Week 9: Busing in Boston****Monday October 31:**

Activity: Plotting data in R — the grammar of graphics

Readings:

- J. Anthony Lukas, *Common Ground*, chapters 14-18
- Watch “James Brown and Mayor Kevin White Address the Crowd at the Boston Garden” ([http://openvault.wgbh.org/catalog/V\\_D1](http://openvault.wgbh.org/catalog/V_D1))
- Watch, “Evening Compass” 09/09/1975, beginning of clip to 6:41 ([http://bostonlocaltv.org/catalog/V\\_TBHJ42XIAXAZOY2](http://bostonlocaltv.org/catalog/V_TBHJ42XIAXAZOY2)) and student interviews in “English High School” ([http://bostonlocaltv.org/catalog/V\\_NMEQDOV40EIR1F6](http://bostonlocaltv.org/catalog/V_NMEQDOV40EIR1F6))

**Thursday November 3**

Readings:

- [Watch John Oliver on School Desegregation today.](#)
- J. Anthony Lukas, *Common Ground*, chapters 19-24
- Watch, “Boston School Desegregation Review” ([http://bostonlocaltv.org/catalog/V\\_ECWKOMHK3Z1X86O](http://bostonlocaltv.org/catalog/V_ECWKOMHK3Z1X86O))

In class:

- Америка 70-х: Бостонские контрасты (Now in class)

**Give Assignment: Blue Sky Proposal/Final Project****Unit 4: Politics****Week 10: Election Week****Monday November 6****Assignment Due, Final Project Idea Post #2**

Activity: Merging data and exploring residential segregation.

Readings: - The Big Sort: Chapters 1, 2

Activity: Principal Components Analysis and election results (RStudio). Lecture: Principal Components and political polarization.

**Thursday November 10**

Readings: - The Big Sort, 10

TBD: Election results.

**Friday November 11: Assignment Due, Not Reading**

## Unit 5: Social Engagement and the City

### Week 11: Civics and the Web

#### Monday November 14: Final Project Workshop

Assignment: bring your two ideas from your two ideas assignments. Be ready to make a brief pitch to the class.

- Workshop ideas into project proposals
- Identify potential collaborations
- Outline a plan of work
- Looking toward Blue Sky Proposal/Final Project Contract

#### Thursday November 17: Data Field Trip

Activity: TBD/Field Trip to City Hall

*Friday, November 18: Assignment Due, Blue Sky Proposal/Final Project Contract*

### Week 12: Social Media Activism

#### Monday November 21: #blacklivesmatter and #ferguson

Activity: Guest Lecture by Prof. Brooke Foucault Welles from 12:30-1:25

Readings:

- Moya Bailey, “[Redefining Representation: Black Trans and Queer Women’s Digital Media Production](#)” — Sarah J. Jackson & Brooke Foucault Welles, “[#Ferguson is everywhere: initiators in emerging counter-public networks](#)”

#### Thursday November 24: No Class, Thanksgiving

### Week 13: Social Media Text Analysis/Twitter bots?

#### Monday November 28: 3 Laws of Twitter Robotics

- Rob Dubbin, “The Rise of Twitter Bots” (<http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-rise-of-twitter-bots>)
- Mark Sample, “A Protest Bot is a Bot So Specific You Can’t Mistake It for Bullshit” (<https://medium.com/???#.8bjcxnp7x>)
- <http://arstechnica.com/the-multiverse/2016/06/an-ai-wrote-this-movie-and-its-strangely-moving/>
- <https://vimeo.com/9790850> in class
- Bots as abusers

**Thursday December 1: The Social Media Marathon**

Debate: How much news is fit to print?

Activity: Parsing Twitter data—how is it assembled? How do you get from native to structured like we want?

**Thursday December 1: Bots due before class as described in assignment**

Readings:

- Kate Starbird et al, “Rumors, False Flags, and Digital Vigilantes: Misinformation on Twitter after the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing” ([https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/47257/308\\_ready.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed](https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/47257/308_ready.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed))
- Yu-Ru Lin and Drew Margolin, “The ripple of fear, sympathy and solidarity during the Boston bombings” (<http://epjdatascience.springeropen.com/articles/10.1140/epjds/s13688-014-0031-z>)

**Week 14: Wrapping Up****Monday December 5: Final Project Work-in-Progress Presentations**

\*\* No final exam \*\*

\*\* Final Projects due Dec 12, 2016 at 10:00am \*\*