



IM355 Spatial Data: Mapping & Power



Term 1

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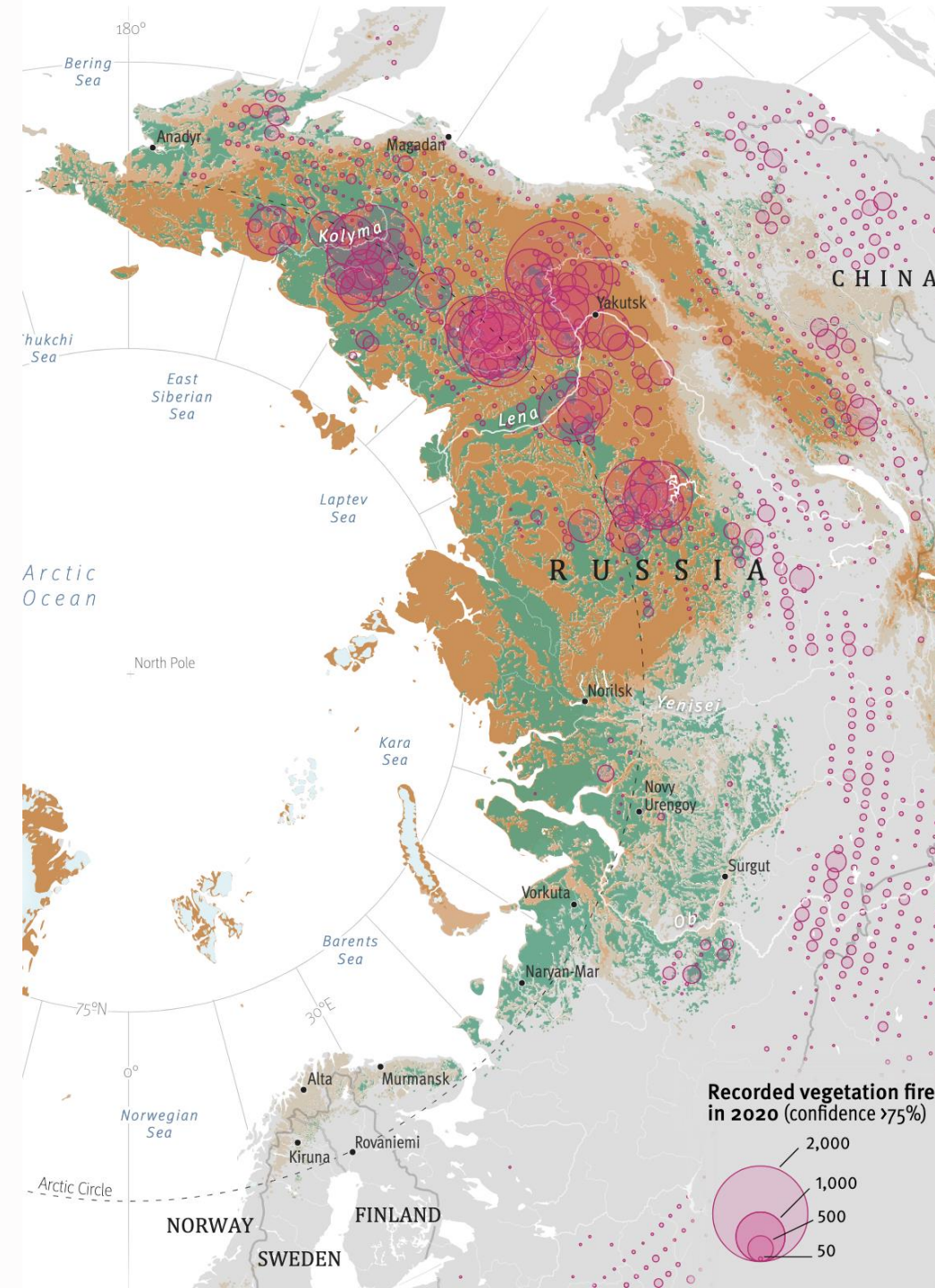
Description

Spatial data is now everywhere. Whenever we use our phones, make a purchase, or use public transport, data about our location and movement is being recorded.

This module offers a **practice-based** introduction to the history of cartography and mapping, theories **of space and power**, and a **hands-on approach to working with spatial data**.

It will challenge you to develop a critical approach to spatial data – how it is **collected, mapped and used** to understand the social – as the theoretical way we understand space cannot be separated from how we seek to represent it.

At its core, this module is about **learning to work with spatial data through doing** and through this engaging with critical research on space and power.



Content and Structure

Themes that the module will cover include:

- **Space and Geography** – How can we understand places, flows and scales?
- **Data** - How is it created? How is it used? And how does it shape how we ‘see the world’?
- **Power** – How have maps made and remade the world? Who benefits? How can we use maps and data to challenge power and advocate for justice?

Lectures :

Weeks 1 – 3: Introductory lectures and learning to use mapping software

Weeks 4 – 9: Making Maps! Detailed feedback, hands-on exercises, and groupwork. Topics include: *Seeing like a state*, *Basemaps*, *Borders & Flows*, *Investigative Aesthetics*, *Countermapping*

Week 10: Conclusion

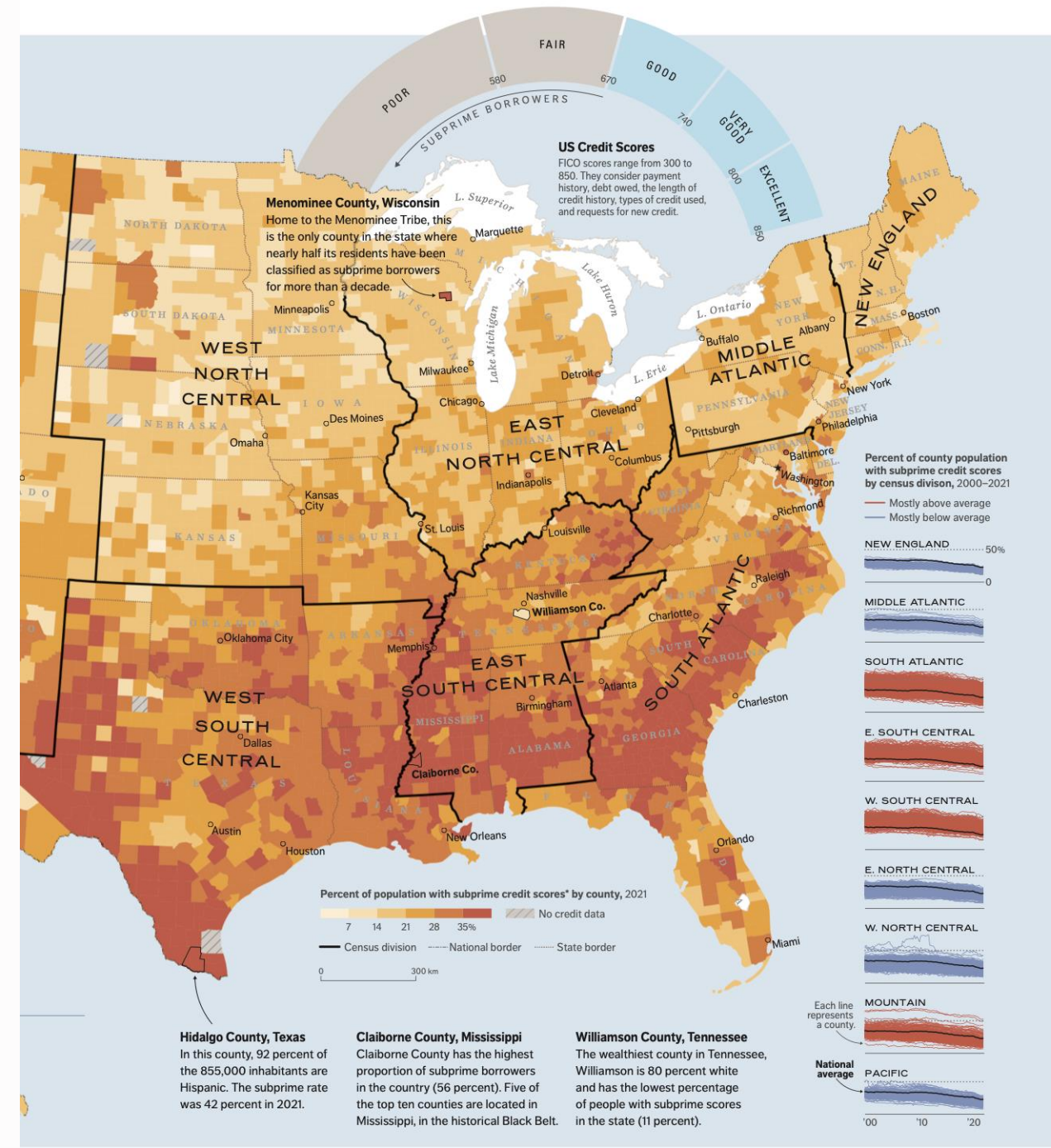
Online Seminars: pre-recorded tutorials on ‘how to’ mapping tasks mixed with reflections and thoughts on the weekly readings

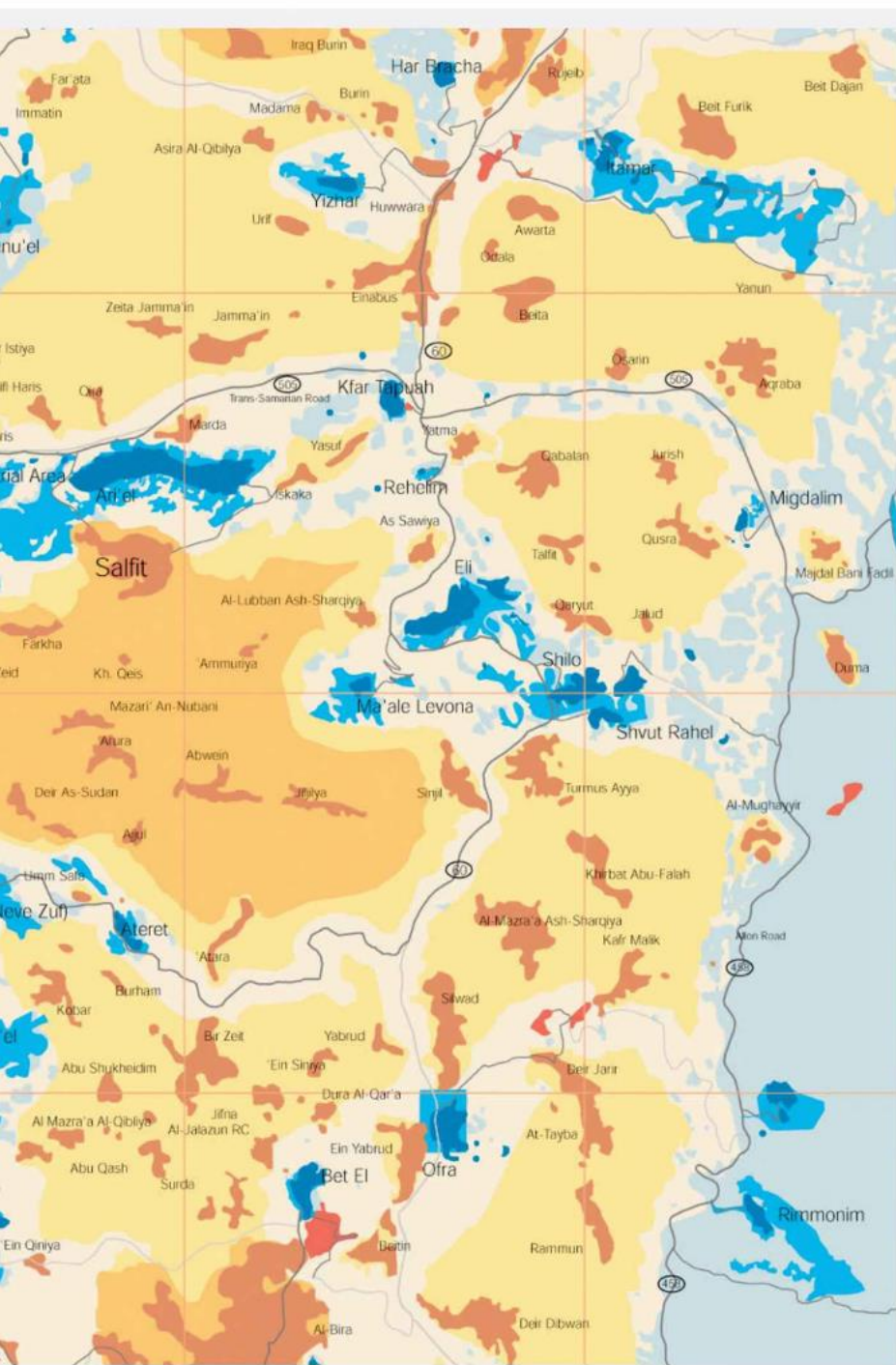


Assignments

15/30 CATS

- **15 CATS:**
 - Group work - 5 Maps (70%)
 - 1000-word Self Critique (30%)
- **30 CATS:**
 - Groupwork - 5 Maps (35%)
 - 4 individual maps + 1500-word self critique (65%)





Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Design their own cartographic/thematic maps that showcase their analytic abilities
- Initiate plans, that enable the develop and production of their own maps
- Manage their own learning of spatial mapping and data software, either R or QGIS
- Communicate an understanding of critical theories of space and power•
- Professional level ability to evaluate what makes maps ‘effective’ for different tasks, audiences and datasets. •
- Current understanding the different approaches that can be taken to mapping tasks and discriminate the reasoning behind the approaches taken to mapping.
- Demonstrate the ability to work as part of a group to divide and share tasks, tackle problems creatively, and constructively critique and develop both their own and peers’ work
- Scholarly understanding of the history of cartography and mapping