

INT 198T: Art Worlds NYC

Assignment 1

Utilizing ACS and Census Data to examine “Art Cities” and Florida’s “Creative Class”

Due: Wednesday, September 30th by 1:20pm

In this assignment, we hope to give you some experience utilizing data from the U.S. Census and American Community Survey (the same data sources Richard Florida uses!). We will also investigate the idea of art cities and the creative class more directly—by examining where clusters of artists, actors, musicians, etc. live.

One critique of Florida’s work is that his definition of “creative class” is too broad, and includes occupations as varied as doctors, scientists and engineers along with the artists, dancers and writers. The first part of the data analysis will allow you to analyze where artists actually live—and you may be surprised to see where New York City falls in that ranking. To complete this portion of the data analysis, please:

- Log on to our Blackboard site and open the “assignments” tab. Within this tab we have placed several data tables created from the University of Minnesota’s “Integrated Public Use Microdata Series.” These data tables report the number and percentage of people employed in particular occupations by metro area.
- Using the instruction sheet “How to Read a Data Table” (also provided in the “assignments” tab), fill out the worksheet provided on the reverse of this sheet. (You may do this by hand, but please make sure your handwriting is legible.)

Then, based on what you’ve discovered in the tables, please write up a 2-3 page summary and analysis in which you discuss the following issues:

- Based on these measures, which metro area appears to be the premiere “art city” in the United States?
- Where does the New York metro area fall in these rankings? Did this surprise you?
- Do any other cities seem to emerge as regional centers for the arts? Is there a close competitor for the “#1 art city”?
- Finally, how would you explain these patterns? Does the interview with Richard Florida and Steven Pedigo offer any hints about what might happen in the future? And might there be other ways to measure whether a city is truly “creative”?

Your completed assignment—which will include the filled-in worksheet (on reverse of this sheet) along with your 2-3 page discussion—should be submitted in class on Wednesday, September 30th by 1:20pm. The 2-3 page discussion should be typewritten, completed in 11-12 point font with one inch margins. You may submit it as a hard copy, or digitally through the “assignment” tab on Blackboard. (We will demonstrate how to do this in class.)

The completed assignment will be worth 10% of your overall grade and will be assessed/graded based on: 1) the accuracy with which you complete the worksheet on the reverse, 2) the thoroughness with which your written analysis responds to the questions above, and 3) your ability to integrate our class readings (Florida’s article, as well as “Residential Preferences of the Creative Class”) into your discussion and analysis.

Of all [artists/actors/dancers, etc.], please list the percentage who live in the following cities:

	Artists	Actors	Dancers	Musicians	Photographers	Writers
Atlanta						
Boston						
Chicago						
Dallas						
Los Angeles						
Miami						
New Orleans						
New York						
Philadelphia						
Portland, Oregon						
San Francisco						
Seattle						
Washington DC						

Based on your findings above, which U.S. cities have the largest percentage of:

Occupation	City #1	City #2	Percentages (City 1/City2)
Artists			
Actors			
Dancers & choreographers			
Musicians & singers			
Photographers			
Writers & authors			

Finally, please use the final cell in the table (which reads “Col Total”) to tell us how many (in numbers, not percentages) Americans were employed in the following occupations in 2013.

Artists: _____

Actors: _____

Dancers & choreographers: _____

Musicians & singers: _____

Photographers: _____

Writers & authors: _____