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Proposal: I require students to submit a proposal of their project, in which they must define the objective, discuss their approach, and address their data needs, including the sources of the data.

- Requiring students to produce and submit a proposal of their intended project helps them learn to design a simple methodology with which to investigate a proposed area of interest
- The proposal serves as a check on the realism and “do-ability” of the project
 - Helps students pick projects that can be completed within a time-frame of 6-8 weeks
 - Encourages students to seek out necessary data on their own

Presentation: Students are required to present their projects (in the form of posters or interactive user sessions) in a forum open to the public, including other students, faculty, and staff.

- Because knowledge of anything is lost if that information cannot be communicated effectively to a wider audience, this presentation session requires students to discuss their work with others who are not familiar with it
- Helps students develop skills in professionalism
 - Students should take this session seriously and are required to dress and act accordingly
- Stimulates an interest in GIS among visitors who are viewing the student projects

Paper: A paper detailing both the project and the steps undertaken is required (including problems encountered and solutions to those problems).

- Students submit a detailed log of the entire project experience
 - Encouraging them to write about both their GIS successes and pitfalls (essentially receiving “credit” for all work) spurs them to try things not formally discussed during class
 - Fosters self-reliance and reduces a student’s dependence on handholding throughout the course

Serves to reiterate the importance of selecting an appropriate methodology

GEOG 265—Introduction to GIS (Dr. Zimmermann)
Project Proposal—due at the beginning of class on November 9, 2004
50 pts. (10% of total course grade)

You will be working on a GIS-related project involving some type of spatial analysis of your choice. The idea is to use GIS to investigate a topic, research data, and plan or design a project, etc. While there are no definitive rules with which to approach your project, you must conceive of an idea AND of a methodology to complete it.

Your proposal should include the following:

Introduction (general idea of project and the justification for it)

Background information

- this need not be a formal literature review, but rather a brief discussion of why you have selected the above project and why you have chosen to examine it with a spatial perspective

What your proposed methodology is

- what you are planning to analyze or investigate
- what approaches (e.g. statistical methods) you plan to use
- which tools within ArcGIS you plan to use

What data you plan to use and why

- your data sources (these must be properly cited)
- why you have selected the above sources
- commentary on the quality of your data
- address any biases or shortcomings, if necessary

Conclusion

- may state anticipated findings or outcome

Spelling and grammar will count, so proofread accordingly. Additionally, you must cite any material that is not your own (including your data sources); web sites must be cited, complete with access dates; see me if you have any questions.

Although there is no set number of pages for the proposal, a reasonable estimate would be approximately 3 to 5 pages in length. Understand that you will be writing a paper (and generating a poster or interactive user session) for this project and that some of this proposal material may be used in the paper as well.

**GEOG 265: Introduction to GIS
Dr. Zimmermann**

**Presentation of the Final Project—10% of Final Grade
Thursday December 9, 2004
8:00 AM**

Because the final projects encompass a variety of topics and approaches, you may select your presentation method from the following two options:

Poster presentation—a large poster which will include:

Title of project

Description of project and how it was done (i.e. methodology)

**A selection of maps and graphics generated during the course
of your project (i.e. important visuals)**

Brief description of results with discussion

Conclusions and references

This method would probably work best for a more traditionally oriented research project with a stated objective and outcome.

Interactive presentation (e.g. PowerPoint® slide show)—you will be seated by a computer with your project at hand

A user should be able to sit down at the computer and navigate through your project selections (e.g. hyperlinks or maps in the table of contents); these should be easily accessed by a user or viewer

This method would probably work best for a project that involves anything dynamic, such as accessing hyperlinks

The presentations will be open to the public. You are to take this seriously conduct yourself professionally. Dress professionally and be courteous to anyone who stops by your project or poster. You will be expected to answer questions about your work. How you present not only your project but also yourself is part of the grade.

Your Final Project Presentation will be graded on the following:

-thoroughness of presentation

-professionalism of presentation

-spelling, grammar, neatness

-ease of navigation or understanding by user/viewer

-professionalism of presenter

-dress and behavior of presenter

**GEOG 265: Introduction to GIS
Dr. Zimmermann**

**Paper about final project—due 5:00 PM December 17, 2004
15% of Final Grade
Paper Guidelines (for final project)**

You are to write a paper detailing the work you did for your final project. If your project incorporated research, you would present your results in this paper. If you have any questions about the following guidelines, contact me. “I wasn’t sure what you wanted” is not an excuse. Additionally, this paper is not only a description of your project in general, but it is also a description of how you utilized spatial analysis and GIS to complete your project. It is this emphasis on GIS that differentiates this paper from a standard research or term paper.

Your paper should have the following:

Introduction

Description of your project and how it relates to GIS

Methodology of your project

**-include data sources and web sites, steps taken to complete your project, why you selected the data and methodology that you chose
-include the things you did in ArcGIS that enabled you to complete your project**

****NOTE: you may discuss any problems you encountered in this section and what you did to overcome or mitigate those problems***

****NOTE: you may also discuss steps or approaches that you tried in ArcGIS that may not have made it to the final version of your project (you will need to provide a rationale for those approaches)***

Results (if appropriate) or a detailed description of the benefits your project presents to a user.

Conclusion

-you must address how using a GIS enhanced your project

Write clearly, coherently, and professionally. Do not use slang or colloquialisms. Spelling and grammar count, so proofread your work before you hand it in. Use 10 or 12 point font size and use reasonable (approximately one-inch) margins. There is no requirement for the minimum or maximum number of pages (though 5-6 pages should be sufficient); keep your text brief, but to the point. You need to write enough to provide with a detailed history of your final project.