
Geo 265 | Introduction to GIS | Winter 2015
FINAL PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

Description

All students will be required to select a class project demonstrating your skills in GIS. The project is intended to provide a deeper understanding of GIS through an investigation of a particular geographic question. You will need to *acquire the spatial data*, perform some type of *spatial analysis* (using queries and/or joins), and make a *suite of maps*.

Requirements

There are three project requirements:

1. Submit a **project outline** that includes your geographic research question and a description of your GIS data needs. Each student should discuss the proposal with the instructor.
2. A final project **portfolio** that includes: 3 final maps; a written description of your GIS data, the analyses you performed to create each map, and a brief description of each map's purpose.
3. 5-minute **presentation** to the class about your project.

First rule – *keep it simple*.

The focus is on methods and tools in ArcGIS, not necessarily on the results. I recommend that you use existing GIS data sources to do your project. If you are interested in digitizing or doing a GPS survey to create your own spatial dataset, discuss with the instructor.

Data Resources

- List of GIS data sources can be found <http://www.christinafriedle.com/gis-data-links.html>.
- Metro RLIS data is available from the GIS Lab (c://data/RLIS). Metadata link: <http://rlisdiscovery.oregonmetro.gov/?resourceID=6>

Project Outline

The project outline is due on **Tuesday February 24, 2015**. It should be **1-2 pages** in length, and include:

- The geographic research question you wish to answer;
- a list of the GIS data you plan to use (and where it will come from);
- a list of the 3 maps you will produce with a brief description of each.

Project Portfolio & Presentation

The project portfolio is due on **Monday March 17, 2015** - the day we meet for our class final. Each student will give a *5-minute presentation* describing his or her portfolio to the class. You will be required to submit an electronic copy (.pdf) of your portfolio to the instructor.

The portfolio must include:

Geo 265 | Introduction to GIS | Winter 2015
FINAL PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

- Your geographic research question;
- GIS data sources;
- Methods – the steps you took to complete your analysis
- 3 maps, incorporating quality cartographic design & layout.

Project Grading

The grade for your project is based on the:

- Cohesiveness and quality of your geographic question,
- Appropriateness of the methods and techniques, and
- Quality of your map presentation.

Tips to a Successful Project

- Does the necessary data exist and is it readily accessible? If not, is it easily created? What data can be used as a proxy for the “ideal” data if the ideal data is not available?
- What specific steps in ArcGIS will this project involve? What tools and functions will be used?
- How will you go about presenting the results? What maps will be necessary?