

Geography 417/817 Final Project and Paper Instructions and Rubric

The Final Project is worth 300 points, and the accompanying Final Paper is worth 100 points.

You will create a final interactive web map project on your own, based on a topic you have already discussed with me. Although the final map application can address any subject or issue you choose, it should use multiple layers and contain multiple interactive components (searching, querying features, toggling layers, et cetera). This application is your opportunity to demonstrate your mastery over interactive mapping

- **100 points** – You must present your work to the class, explaining what decisions you made when creating the application (the API you chose, the interactive components, et cetera) and enable others to give you feedback. This presentation can be a Zoom meeting, to which everyone in class is invited; a recorded presentation (such as a narrated PowerPoint) wherein you offer the same sort of descriptions; your posted final paper for class feedback (*note: I will grade the papers separately for the other 100 points*); or some other comparable option to which I have agreed well in advance.
- **200 points** – Map Application. Rubric detailed below:

Score	Design	Code	Data	Interactive Features	Productivity
0 (not shown)	No serious attempt to put map together in a legible format	No code provided/shared	No data used	No interactivity with layers	Project not completed
10 (attempted)	Data symbology is extremely confusing and distorts legibility, message has not been considered at all	Not close to anything functional; map doesn't load	Data are invalid or not loaded in properly	One interactive feature attempted (pop up, search, draw, etc.)	Project attempted, but highly incomplete by due date
20 (basic)	Map is lacking refinements such as consideration of colors relative to subject, difficult to understand	Application loads, but has too many issues to be used as intended	Data are from third parties, nothing unique	One interactive feature is present and works properly	Project incomplete, but nearly functional by due date
30 (acceptable)	Some minor issues, such as opaque overlapping symbols; clashing layers	Some issues that impact some of the intended functionality	Valid, unique dataset	One functional interactive feature; a second attempted	Project mostly complete, with only minor errors or issues
40 (advanced)	Symbology is appropriate, map is quickly understood by most audiences	Few/no errors or issues that impact functionality	At least one valid, unique source AND additional dataset(s) from any source(s)	At least two functional interactive components are present	Project fully completed on time, good use of time

The Final Project Paper is worth 100 points.

One short final paper (2-4 pages double-spaced) should describe the application framework and methods you used to generate your web map application. What choices did you make? Why did you make them? There should be significant discussion of your map application's usefulness and limitations, as well as its outlook relative to sustainability or preservation (if relevant, identify any costs, technology, ongoing need for API key/proprietary software, support, et cetera). Because cartography is one emphasis of this course, you must also describe in detail how you are approaching issues such as simplification, symbolization, et cetera.

Graduate students enrolled in GEOG 817 will "review" two or three (or more) other interactive map applications in their paper **and** compare their work with existing applications. This component of the paper will require students to identify and critique existing web mapping applications, giving particular attention to data format, language, styles, et cetera. Students will discuss the impact or potential impact of these applications on their areas of study and expertise, if relevant.

These materials are due on **May 6** by 3:15 PM