IDS 2935: Analytical Essay

Due: 2 November 2023 | Value: 125 Points | Submission: Canvas

Assignment Overview

Brazil and Indonesia are among the world's countries with the most tropical forest (ranked 1st and 3rd, respectively). Considerable attention is therefore devoted to documenting the amount of forest cover in both countries, as well as investigating the factors responsible changes in forest cover over time. These factors can be both internal (i.e., domestic social, economic, and political issues) and external (i.e., international events, foreign policy). ***Your assignment is to analyze Brazil and Indonesia's forest cover from 2001-2022 and suggest internal or external factors could be responsible for any major changes the rate of forest loss.***

To complete this analytic essay you must:

1. **Download data:** Use the Global Forest Watch Database (https://www.globalforestwatch.org/) to find and download data for the amount of tree cover and tree cover loss in Brazil and Indonesia between 2002-2022.

2. **Calculate the following:**

    a) the *total* tree cover that was lost between 2002 through 2022 (total = all years combined),
    b) the *percentage* of 2002 tree cover remaining in 2022,
    c) the *annual forest loss* from 2002 to 2022, and
    d) the *annual rate of forest loss* from 2002 to 2022.

3. **Prepare two graphs:** one with the data from (2c), and one with the data from (2d). These should be line graphs, with each plot including the data for both countries. Make sure each graph has properly labeled axes, a legend, and a title.

4. **Analyze and investigate the patterns of forest loss:** Once you have graphed the data, see if you can identify any trends in the rate of forest loss over time. Pay particular attention to trends before and after 2016. Then conduct research to identify any factors that might be responsible for the observed trends. These could be within-country factors (e.g., government policies or national economic expansion or contraction) or international events (e.g., implementation of forest preservation treaties, international trade agreements or disputes).

5. **Write an essay** in which you summarize and compare the rates of deforestation in Brazil and Indonesia, and present your conclusions regarding the mechanisms that are likely responsible for the trends you graphed. The essay should be $\geq$ 1000-1200 words (1000 words is approx 2-2.5 pages of single-spaced text). Note that you should *not* respond to each questions with bullet points - the responses should be in essay format, using carefully revised writing, and thorough descriptions of the observed patterns followed by their interpretation. You may wish to consider how your conclusions about patterns in forest loss change if considering longer time intervals (i.e., 10-20 years) vs. shorter ones (1-5 years). You might also try and predict the amount of forest loss going forward.

The essay must include a bibliography with citations of at least 4 relevant sources that support your conclusions. The bibliography can be formatted in any standard style (i.e, MLA, APA, Chicago, etc).

6. **Submission:** Your essay with bibliography and 2 graphs should be submitted via canvas as a single pdf document. The essay should be single-spaced text with 1 inch margins. Label the figures as Figure 1 and Figure 2. The essay is **due 2 November 2023** and has a **value = 125 Points**. It will be graded with the rubric below.

Additional Information

1. **A word about Sources:** The UF Smathers Libraries are among the best academic libraries in the country, and the librarians are *phenomenal*. Ask them for help both with looking for information for your papers, for how to determine if something is an acceptable source of information for a paper, and for how to evaluate the quality of the information presented. They have an online tutorial on Library Research Basics but you can actually get help with class assignments from the Research Assistance Desk (both walk-ups and appointments are available). Take advantage of this paper to get to know the Librarians and the resources we have to make your life easier.

2. **A word about Bibliographies:** There are few things in life worse than typing up bibliographies for papers. It takes forever and you will make tons of mistakes. Worse, the next professor will require the bibliography in a different format, so even if you can re-use a reference you have to retype it. If only there was a way to automate the process so you could print up a bibliography in a few seconds at the touch of a button. Behold! I give you Endnote. Or Zotero. Take your pick, both are free for UF students. Never type a bibliography again. Need help learning to use them? Ask me in office hours or ask the librarian listed of the page of the one you're trying to learn.

RUBRIC

Criterion	Excellent - Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Analysis: Identification, description, and support for the hypothesis	A reasonable hypothesis for the observed trends and evidence in support of claim. (65-80 pts)	A reasonable hypothesis for the observed trends and evidence in support of claim.(50-64 pts)	A basic identification and explanation of course content in support of the main claim/warrant.(40-50 pts)	A partial or incorrect identification and explanation of course content in support of the main claim/warrant. (<40 pts)
Communication: Graphs	all graphs correctly depicting the data, with properly labeled axes and a title (25-30 pts)	most graphs correctly depicting the data, with most axes properly labeled and a title (20-24 pts)	several errors in graphs, multiple errors in the labeling of axes, titles missing (15-19 pts)	many errors in graphs or graphs missing, multiple errors in the labeling of axes, most titles missing (<15 pts)
Communication: Citations	appropriate number of citations, citations from the scholarly literature, citations properly formatted (10 pts)	appropriate number of citations, citations from the scholarly literature, citations properly formatted (7 pts)	fewer citations than required or fewer from scholarly literature than expected,; some errors in formatting (5 pts)	no or only 1 citation, not from the scholarly literature, many errors (3 pts)
Communication: Clarity	The paper is easy to follow, it is well organized, and the reader can understand the individual sentences and paragraphs without having to re-read them. (17-20 pts)	The paper is for the most part understandable and well organized, but a couple of sentences are confusing and difficult for the reader to understand. (14-16 pts)	The paper is understandable, but there are some points when it is difficult to follow the author's argument. (10-15 pts)	The paper is difficult to follow, the argument is disorganized and confusing, and many sentences are difficult to understand. (<10 pts)
Communication: Spelling & Grammar	Without any grammatical, syntactical, or spelling errors. (8-10 pts)	With only one or two spelling or grammatical errors (6-7 pts)	Only a few minor grammatical and spelling errors. (5-6 pts)	Either many minor errors or a few serious errors. (< 5 pts)