IDS 2935: Analytical Essay

Value: 150 Points

Due: 1 November 2022

Submission: Via Canvas

Essay Topic: Two of the countries with the most tropical forest within their borders are Brazil (BRA) and Indonesia (IDN). Consequently, considerable attention is paid to documenting trends in forest loss in these countries, as well as in trying to infer the internal and external factors - economic, social, political - that might be responsible for any changes in the rates of deforestation over time. ***Your assignment is to write an essay in which you:***

- Calculate and compare deforestation in BRA and IDN from 2001-2021, and
- Propose the factors responsible for the observed trends. Support your hypothesis with evidence from the scholarly literature and logival arguments.

To complete your assignment, you will need to do the following:

1. Download data on the annual loss in tree cover in BRA and IDN between 2002-2021 from Global Forest Watch (https://www.globalforestwatch.org/),

2. Calculate (a) the *total* amount of 2001 tree cover that had been lost by 2021, and (b) the *percentage* of 2001 tree cover that had been lost by 2021.

3. Calculate (a) the *total forest cover lost per year* for the 2001-2021 interval, and (b) the *rate of forest cover lost per year* for the 2001-2021 interval.

4. For your essay you may wish to:

(a) consider how your conclusions about long-term patterns in forest loss change when conducting your analyses with longer vs. shorter time intervals (i.e., No. 2 vs No. 3),
(b) pay particular attention to the patterns before and after 2016,
(c) try and predict what the amount of forest loss will be going forward. Be sure to justify your assertion, and
(d) Identify potential 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).

The complete assignment will require:

1. An essay of $\geq$ 1000 words in which you (a) compare the rates of deforestation in Brazil and Indonesia, and (2) hypothesize as to the mechanisms responsible for the patterns. Address items 1-4 above (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 complete sentences and carefully revised writing, thorough descriptions of the observed patterns, citations of at least 4 relevant sources to support your conclusions, and a formatted bibliography (any standard style - MLA, APA, Chicago, Harvard, other - is fine).

2. Graphs showing the total amount of forest lost between 2002 and 2021 and the annual rate of forest lost from 2002 to 2021. Be sure to have properly labeled axes, legends, and axes with the appropriate scales.

3. Your Essay and Graphs should be submitted as a single pdf document. The essay should be single-spaced text with 1 inch margins, and Times New Roman font. Each figure(s) and its legend should be on a separate page and labelled as Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.

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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)

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.