Final projects

PUBPOL 2130 / INFO 3130
Moon Duchin, Spring 2025

Overview of assignment

We're assigning you into teams of 4-5 by Tuesday April 15. You will also be assigned to one of the two TAs (Jennah or Tanya) as the point person for your project. You have a month to work on the project, including time after classes are over, and you should plan to spend at least 30 hours on it overall. Your weekly homework will include a description of progress on the project. We recommend that the group meet together for at least two hours per week. If the whole group can't find a meeting time, then we recommend meeting in subgroups and keeping momentum going by regular asynchronous communication. So far this term, we have not asked you to submit code, but for your projects we do want a well-commented Python notebook (Colab is fine) that runs to reproduce your figures. You can use any software you want to typeset the project, including just working within the Python environment and outputting a PDF at the end. If not that, consider using overleaf. If not that, Microsoft Word or the equivalent is acceptable.

A detailed outline / first draft is due by May 1, which is 15 days after teams are assigned. A majority of your group (at least three members) must have an in-person 30-minute meeting with your supervising TA on in the days surrounding that deadline. If you can't find a time that works for everyone, then others should be sure to sign up for office hours with the TAs or with Moon within a week of May 1. The final submission date is May 14 at noon.

Final submission: five to six pages written collaboratively, plus 10-20 references. (Rule of thumb for font, margins, etc: a page should contain about 400 words. The whole paper should contain about 2000-2500 words.) This should include one "highlight data product" for each team member, but please try to make the paper read in a uniform way.

The main report must be written in a unified fashion, but is also required to contain a separate supplement by team member, with additional data products (1-3 additional plots each) and any additional narrative from conducting the project, or ideas for future work. Please be **brief** in your supplement, one page preferred but up to three pages allowed. Finally, each student will fill out a form describing the contributions to the group project of each team member.

Please let us know if you have any questions!

Timing

- Planning poll given out Thursday April 10 in class, due Monday April 14

- Teams assigned Tuesday April 15

- Detailed outline / first draft due Thursday May 1, 11:59pm

- Required in-person meeting with TA - Weds Apr 30 - Sat May 3 (we'll offer signups)

- Project due Wednesday May 14 at noon

Assessment

Elements of project	regular credit	extra credit
Complete poll by Monday April 14, noon	2	
Poll submitted early (by Sunday April 13, 5pm)	—	2
Outline / Draft – includes planned use of data sources, beginnings of lit review, indications of work in progress	12	
Personal supplement to outline/draft	—	4
Meeting in Apr 30-May 3 window to discuss progress	2	
Paper: your featured data product	4	
Paper: good use of data sources	4	
Paper: lit review	4	
Paper: report overall	8	
Paper: your supplement, including additional plots	4	4
Paper: working, well-commented Colab/Python notebook	4	
TOTAL	44	10

Note: extra credit doesn't get added to your report total, but goes into a separate score that I will use to bump up your grade if you are close to a grade cutoff at the end of the term.