Name:

**Assignment 5 GEOG 212**

*This assignment is worth 25 points and will be evaluated based on completeness, accuracy, and comprehensiveness, using the criteria, instructions, and the allocated points listed for each task in this document. Resources that may help you in completing this assignment include the course textbook, the modules and PowerPoints, and some on-line research (depending on the questions/tasks being asked of you).*

*Review this video on*[*How to Submit an Assignment in Blackboard*](https://bbaddins.schoolcraft.edu/addins/dl/help-videos/Assignment_Help_Video.html)*if you need assistance with this feature. See Calendar for due date. Please save your assignment as a Word document (don’t alter the format of this Word document) and type your name or initials at the end of the file name. Once completed and saved to a certain folder on your computer, go into the Assignment folder on Blackboard and upload your assignment accordingly.*

**Part 5.1 and 5.2 – Ecological Footprint**

For these set of questions, you will calculate your ecological footprint by answering the [Ecological Footprint Calculator](https://www.footprintcalculator.org/home/en) questions as best you can. You don’t have to sign-up, you can “Skip to my Results” once you’re done.

1. According to the website’s calculation, if everyone on the planet lived with your lifestyle, how many “Earths” would we need? **[6 points]**

|  |
| --- |
| According to the website, we would 8.7 Earths based on how I live. |

1. What is your personal overshoot day, and what does it mean? **[4 points]**

|  |
| --- |
| My personal overshoot day is February 10th. This is the date by which humanity would have used up Earth’s annual bio-capacity if everyone lived like me. So essentially, if everyone lived like me, we would only have from January 1st to February 10th for resource consumption. After that day, we would be using next year’s resource consumption. |

1. Once you obtain your results, click on “Facts and Figures” at the top of the page and fill in the table below: **[3 points]**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ecological Footprint (gha)** | **Carbon Footprint (tons per year)** | **Highest Contributor to your Ecological Footprint** (Highest Consumption Category) |
| 14.2 | 25.9 | Carbon Footprint (63%) |

1. What can you do to decrease your ecological impact? Are the actions you need to take feasible at this moment in time? Explain. **[5 points]**

|  |
| --- |
| Looking at my breakdown by category, I can see that from highest to lowest I have shelter, food, mobility, goods, and services. So, to start, I should probably find a way to get some type of renewable energy source at my home. I’m not sure how solar panels do in the winter, but for the majority of the year I could probably power the majority of my house with solar panels alone. Next category would be food, I tend to buy the cheapest and most efficient food, which means nothing local or organic. I could however try growing my own food, but I still need dairy and meat products. Next is mobility, I already drive a fuel efficient car, but I don’t have the option to work from home so this is something I cannot change. |

**Part 5.3 – Solid Waste**

1. List all the sources of plastic you use and dispose of on a regular basis (daily, weekly, monthly, etc…), and comment on ways you can reduce your plastic usage. Think of everything you do/use that involves plastic and be specific – list everything you can think of.

**[7 points]**

|  |
| --- |
| The biggest thing in my daily life is food. Most of the food comes in plastic containers or tubs. For example, my proteins bars come in a big cardboard box, with each bar wrapped in plastic. My protein powder is a giant plastic tub. The meat I buy is in plastic containers. A lot of the food I buy it is in a plastic container, that is then in another plastic container, and there is food. I always question why there is so much plastic when I am buying my groceries each. It is really annoying because then I have to throw away all of that extra plastic, which then means I use more garbage bags (which is more plastic!). It just seems like a never-ending cycle of plastic consumption. Fortunately, I notice a lot of food manufacturers switching over to recyclable materials, and my recycling bin being more full is never a bad thing. |