

## COMP 535 (Spring 2020) Final Exam

Given the unusual circumstances of this semester, we have come up with an alternative format for your final exam. This alternative format, first and foremost, is an attempt to offer maximum flexibility to you students to accommodate your myriad personal circumstances.

The final exam will take the form of a written essay of length at most 3 pages in 11-point font with 1-inch margins; your reference list, however, is not included in this 3-page limit. The topic of your essay is your choice but should directly relate to some topic covered in class. The goal of your essay is to convince your instructor and TAs that you have mastered the class material related to that topic, and then to *go beyond* that basic understanding in one of the following ways:

- Provide a literature review of that topic that illustrates where and how the key concepts in that topic were developed.
- Describe applications of that topic in practice today and a critical analysis of those applications.
- Write a program to apply some concept from class, and then provide a description of what you did and what you learned in your report. In this case, you should provide your program code as an appendix to your report; this appendix would not count toward your 3-page budget.

Other ways of “going beyond” might be allowable, as well. Feel free to inquire with the instructor or the TAs if you have another idea.

Please submit a one-paragraph description of your planned essay (the topic and what it will cover) to the professor and TAs by April 20. Please do so via [this Google form](#). This plan will not be graded, but will allow us to provide feedback if we see a problem with your plan.

Some ground rules:

- Students are welcome to talk to each other, to the TAs, or to the instructor, about their essay topic. Any assistance, though, must be limited to discussion of general concepts. Each student must write his or her own essay. **Consulting another student’s essay or program is prohibited, and submitted essays or programs may not be copied, in whole or in part, from any source. These and any other forms of collaboration constitute cheating.** If you have any question about whether some activity would constitute cheating, please feel free to ask.
- **Content from any source (other than your brain) must be properly attributed.** However, this essay is “open book”, in that you can use your class notes and online resources. Citations should conform to the [MLA format](#) or a substantially similar format.
- Your essay must include the UNC Honor Pledge: “UNC Honor Pledge: I certify that no unauthorized assistance has been received or given in the completion of this work.”

Your essay will be graded on the degree to which it demonstrates mastery of the selected topic from class and the thoroughness with which you go beyond this basic understanding in one of the ways outlined above (or another).

Your essay is due on May 1, 2020. We will provide a Google form to upload your essay.