

# Geography 572

## Final Project Assignment

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### Summary:

The final project is the cornerstone of the G572 course and should be a demonstration of your near-complete training in cartographic design. ***The final project requirements are purposefully open-ended***; it is an opportunity to accomplish that cartographic project you have had in the back of your mind, but never had the time or skillset to start. The final project can focus on a central, high quality map or be a compilation of numerous information graphics; the final project can be a static visual story or include one or several interactive components; the final project can leverage slideshows, animation, video, narration, music, etc., if appropriate; the final project can make use of any technology you find helpful (although Rashauna only will be able to help with HTML5/CSS). The only requirement is that your final project is of appropriate merit and significance (both of which will be evaluated at the proposal stage) and that it is designed for viewing on the web (consider making a print version too, if desired).

***\*\*In short, design something awesome about a topic that you love\*\****

### Evaluation:

The final project is worth **20%** of your overall course grade. Your final project is graded holistically based on the following criteria: (1) originality and creativity, (2) development of a captivating and clear visual story, (3) effective and memorable visual style, and (4) adherence to cartographic conventions and guidelines (where appropriate).

### Schedule of Deliverables:

- **October 24th:** Final Project Assigned
- **November 15th:** 2-page Proposal Due by 5pm (10% of grade)
- **December 3rd & 5th:** In-class Presentations
- **December 10th & 12th:** In-class Presentations (10% of grade)
- **December 17th:** Final Project Due by Noon (80% of grade)

### Notes:

Late final projects will not be accepted; you must submit the current state of your project/portfolio (however complete it is) at the deadline to avoid a zero for the deliverables. Group projects are not allowed. Plagiarism is not tolerated; final project topics are researched to ensure you did not directly copy an existing map. As with other evaluated items, any offense results in a zero for that activity and disclosure of the impropriety to the Department and University.

## **Proposal: Due November 15th at 5pm (10% of grade)**

You are required to submit a 2-page proposal. The first page of the proposal should include a write-up of the following: (1) your map topic (i.e., I will be mapping...), (2) your map purpose (i.e., the story you hope to tell), (3) your information source (i.e., I have acquired data from...), and (4) an overview of your anticipated representation technique(s). Each section should be a short paragraph comprising 4-5 sentences, with links provided to external resources for clarification. **You must have identified your datasets by the November 15th deadline.** The second page of your proposal should be a storyboard of your final project, showing the layout of maps/graphics and their contents; the storyboard should make clear your intentions with the final project opportunity (i.e., not the first sketch made when initially gathering your thoughts). **Proposals must be submitted to a Learn@UW dropbox by 5pm;** scan your hand-drawn sketch to submit it to Learn@UW.

## **Presentation: December 10th & 12th (10% of grade)**

You will present a draft of your final project in lecture the week before it is due. The purpose of the presentation is to receive feedback on your design from your peers prior to submission. **Your presentation grade is based on an expectation that you should be 75% complete by the presentation,** allowing you to receive feedback on your current design while remaining malleable to integrate interesting design enhancements recommended by your peers. The presentation is informal and should be succinct; provide a 2-3 minute overview of your topic/point and expect 2-3 minutes of questions/feedback. Avoid sharing any long digressions about the problems you encountered during the mapping process; the focus on the presentation is on the outcome of this process. More details about the presentation will be provided following Exam #2.

## **Deadline: December 17th at Noon (80% of grade)**

Your final project is due on **December 17th at Noon** along with your revised web portfolio. **All final project files (.html, .css, .js, assets, etc.) and datasets must be posted to the Learn@UW dropbox for provenance.** Your final projects must be posted to the UW-Madison Geography website as a mirror before they will be graded (we will link to your portfolio page originally, but replace links as they break); you will work with Rashauna on or before December 17th to migrate the map to the geography.wisc.edu server space.