GEOG 9.01 Project Proposal

**Project Title**: Assessing the Geospatial Correlates of Black Lives Matter Protests in Florida

**Team Members:** Darren Colby, Sophia Carter, Pierce Wilson, Alessandra Cassiano-Salinas

**Problem and Research Question:** Recent police violence against unarmed black people in general, but more specifically against George Floyd has brought into national conversation the role of police and police oversight and triggered protests against police brutality. In our project, we seek to understand the ways in which proximity to postsecondary institutions and the spatial distributions of political party members, median household income, and race affect the likelihood of a protest occurring. In the course of our analysis, we plan to create layers for each of these factors in the vector model, perform spatial joins where necessary to correct topological issues and to aggregate these factors into a single layer from which we can create buffers around protests and examine their proximities to the above factors. From this initial analysis, we will estimate a logistic regression with the above variables as predictors and the likelihood of a protest as the response variable. Then, we will create a choropleth map and classify each municipality based on the estimated likelihood of a protest occurring.

**Factors to be Considered:** We plan to examine the proximity of protests to postsecondary institutions and the spatial distributions of political party members, median household income, and race. To operationalize political party, we will use the ratio of registered Republican to Democrat voters in each municipality. Similarly, to operationalize racial composition, we will use the ratio of black and white residents.

**Spatial Analysis Functions:** Addition, Buffer or k-means

**Expected Output:** A map with protests, the factors listed above, and buffers/clusters; a choropleth map of the estimated chance of protests for each municipality; and a regression table for the logistic regression