**Part A**

**What are the major assessments?**

I give 3 projects per semester. Two are defined by me, meaning that I define the problems and questions. One is a student designed problem where they define the questions they want to answer, find the data they will use to answer it, code up a solution to their question(s), and put together a presentation on the project and solution.

**What are minor low stakes assessments that will help students build capacity for the major assessments**

I plan on giving weekly homework problems. These problems are designed to be solvable with less than 10 lines of codes. I usually assign 2 – 4 problems a week and tell students to stop working after 8 hours if they are too challenging. Similarly, I have denoted some problems as “optional” in that if you get the first two done within a reasonable amount of time, go on to the optional problems. For my classes, I really want students writing code every week.

**What tools will you use in Blackboard for assessment?**

I like using Blackboard for submitting assignments. I regularly post and use a rubric for grading so that students understand how I will breakdown their scores. I’ve found Blackboard to be really good for assessments and grading.

**What will you tell students about how long it will take them to get grades and feedback on assessments?**

This is tough. For homework, I try to get everything graded within a week, before we meet again for our synchronous meeting. For projects, I try to get everyone graded within a week. In the past, I’ve also told students that I’ll give them 2 submissions on a project. If they submit before a certain date, I’ll get the project graded within 72 hours and they can resubmit by another deadline. This has actually worked well for harder projects and later in the semester when the material might start to feel overwhelming for some students. What are your thoughts on this idea?

**Part B**

In order to ensure that students are on track to achieve the course objectives, students will have weekly coding assignments. The coding assignments will be graded and returned before the next online lecture, where the solutions will be reviewed, and questions will be addressed. Feedback on respective assignments will also be given to each student through Blackboard. Weekly assignment will become the foundation for student projects which will serve as the benchmarks for whether students understand how to use programming to solve GIS and remote sensing problems. There will be 3 projects over the course of the semester. Two will be defined by the professor. The third and final project will be defined by the student in consultation with me. For the final project, the student will define the questions he or she wants to answer, find the data to answer it, code up a solution to the question(s), and put together a presentation on the project and solution that will be presented during our final class. For the final project, discussion with classmates and me is encouraged as each student will define his or her own project and goals. The instructor will make himself available for virtual office hours weekly on Mondays from 7 to 8 PM using Zoom. If you have questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to meet with me during office hours, send me an email, or schedule an ad-hoc meeting with me outside of our regular meetings or office hours. For week 1 of class, please post your name, discipline of study, and academic interests in the Introductions discussion channel in Blackboard. If you ever need to talk, do not hesitate to reach out to me.