**Final project details.** The assignment for the final project is simple: pose an interesting question; collect a relevant data set; and use the data, in conjunction with the tools we have learned in class, to answer the question you have posed. Make sure to address any shortcomings in the answer provided by your data and analysis. You will be evaluated both on the technical correctness (50%) and the overall intellectual quality (50%) of your approach and write-up.

This assignment is purposely open-ended, allowing you considerable freedom to follow a path dictated by your own intellectual curiosity. Strive to write something that a statistically literate person of wide-ranging interests (for example, a future employer) would find engaging and impressive.

The deliverable dates for the project are as follows:

* 5 PM on Wednesday, April 15, 2020: 2-page (max) project prospectus outlining the question, proposed methods, and data sources you hope to pursue for your project. The prospectus is ungraded, but it is an opportunity for you to get feedback on your idea and approach. If you don't turn in a project prospectus on time, then you will not receive feedback from me on your idea.
* 5 PM on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 (our last class day of the spring semester): the final project is due. Because of the quick turn-around required to grade final projects, I unfortunately cannot extend the grace policy to encompass the project. Late projects will be penalized 10 points per day or partial day, and if you turn in a late project, you may receive a temporary “Incomplete” grade in the course. But remember, you have all semester to get this sorted. If you do not turn in a final project, you will receive a grade of F for the course.

In case getting a data set proves too difficult, I will provide a "default" data set and project. If you use this data set, I will impose a 93% ceiling (i.e. an A-) on your grade. The last 7% is an incentive to be more creative and go with your own project.