VERSION 2
Final Project Description

Purpose:

The purpose of the final project is for you to demonstrate your ability to apply GIS techniques, skills and concepts learned during the semester to address clearly articulated objectives for analyzing a problem that is geographical in nature. **Note: Only individual projects will be allowed.**

Procedures:

Part 1: Develop an Abstract

In this part of the final project, you will develop a high-level summary or abstract of a research proposal that you will develop as part of your final class project class. Word counts aspect of the abstract will give you practice at developing focused, succinct writing.

Part 1 Instructions:

Write an abstract where you:

1. Give a title of the proposal.
2. Provide a **150 word** abstract of a research proposal that contains the following sections:
   a. A clearly identified a topic and/or problem that is spatial/geographic in nature
   b. Questions or areas of inquiry you are investigating related to the topic
   c. *Methods*, or things you will do, to answer the question(s) based on GIS methods learned during the semester

   You must describe each of these sections using a **total** of 150 words.

3. Indicate the number of words in the abstract.
4. Provide 3-4 keywords to categorize your abstract.

An example of the type of abstract you should develop has been posted on myCourses under Discussions > Final Project > Part 1: Develop an Abstract

Each student will be assigned one other student to provide detailed feedback on the other student's abstract using a provided rubric once all of the students have posted abstracts as per the part 2 instructions. The instructor will also give feedback.

Part 2: Abstract Peer Review Feedback

Once every student has posted an abstract as per the part 1 instructions, you will give peer feedback to the fellow student you have been assigned to.

Example: Moakley Robert and Pherwani Nirbhay Ashok have been assigned as peer review pairs, Robert reads Ashok's abstract, Ashok read Robert's abstract. They give each peer review feedback on their respective abstracts and post those reviews as replies to thread of the person they were paired with. The Part 2 specific instructions describe this process.

Part 2 Instructions:

1. Find your name in the peer review pairs that can be found on myCourses > Final Project > Final_Project_Review_Pairs.pdf

2. Read the abstract for the person you are paired with.

3. Give the person you are paired with a 75-100 word written peer review/feedback/questions of their abstract. Use myCourses > Final Project > Final_project_rubric_part_1.pdf as a rubric to guide the writing of your review. You do not need to give the person a grade.

Also note, please provide specific feedback and questions. General feedback like "Great Abstract!" is nice but not very informative. Feedback like "Did you consider this dataset/this literature/this method" is more direct and informative.

4. Post your peer review as a reply to the original thread of the person you were paired with on myCourses under Discussions > Final Project > Part 1: Develop an Abstract.

Part 3: Full Proposal Development

In this third part of the final project, you will expand on your part 1 abstract and peer review feedback from part 2 into a full research project proposal.

Part 3 Instructions:

1. Develop a full research proposal of the topic you will address for the project based on your part 1 abstract and revised based on peer feedback you received. Your full research proposal should include:
   a. A clear description of a problem that is geographical in nature that you will analyze[1]
   b. A clear description of the goals(s) and objective(s) you will in meet to solve/analyze
      the problem you describe

      c. A summary of peer-reviewed literature that is a basis for your research. Discuss how your research specifically fits with the papers you review.
      d. Specific GIS methods you will use to meet your objectives
           i. Your methods description should include examples of specific datasets that will be used – include descriptions and URLs
      e. Outputs from your analysis you anticipate creating to provide evidence that you have met your objectives
      f. Any revisions to your project revisions based on peer feedback of your part 1 abstract.

2. Post your full research proposal on myCourses under Discussions > Final Project > Part 3: Full Proposals. The purpose for doing so will be so everyone in the class knows what everyone else is doing and ideally, resources (i.e., downloaded datasets) or ideas can be shared.

   An example of final proposal you should develop has been posted on myCourses under Discussions > Final Project > Part 3: Full Proposals

3. You will acquire and/or create the datasets necessary for your project and conduct your analysis.

4. You will synthesize your results and present the evidence of your finding using the deliverable format specified below.

Deliverables

1. Develop a written research report where you present your project results. As is customary, your paper would include sections such as an abstract, problem domain, objectives, methodology, datasets, results (must include at least one map), summary, conclusions, and future work. To give you experience with academic publishing, you final written paper must use myCourses > Final Project > interim-layout.docx (the ACM Interim Template).
2. You should target your final report to be around 2,500-3,000 words, excluding tables, references and the abstract.
3. **Submit a single MS word .docx file** as the deliverable – no PDFs, zip files, separated images, project data or unnecessary extra files – everything should be in the final report.

Grading Criteria

A rubric for the final project report can be found on myCourses attached to the dropbox where you will submit your final project report.

Time Frame:

Monday 17 February (11:59pm) – Part 1: Abstract submitted.
Monday 24 February (11:59pm) – Part 2: Abstract peer review completed.
Thursday 27 February (11:59pm) – Part 3: Full proposal submitted.
Sunday 1 March (11:59pm) – Final project report due via submission to the Final Project
Research Report dropbox in myCourses