ps5: the final project

[version: Thursday 29th March, 2018 15:49]

due in last class: apr26; plus 10min, sharp, presentation

1. submit in sakai's dropbox some maps (or link to where they are, say google drive, dropbox, etc), typically say 3-10, in rare cases one map may be enough but only if it is truly outstandingly sophisticated; in some other cases you may submit more maps, say 15 or 20, but please, do not submit more than 20
2. maps need to be "interesting" and "pretty"; have legend and title, cut decimal points, make fonts small, space used efficiently, etc (all the stuff we've discussed)
3. there need to be some description of the maps, typically say a page, but again, in rare circumstances, couple paragraphs would suffice (if there is some extraordinary sophistication) or there may be more text say couple pages, but please do not have more than 10 pages of text (double spaced); excluding metadata, and journal (if any)–if you submit more than 10 pages of text, I will only read first 10 pages
4. give much thought to the key vairables, think about classification methods, don't forget about including a histogram!
5. maps and text may be in the same document, but they can be separately, too
6. text must be pdf or txt or html; maps (if submitted separately) can be in any format
7. include raw gis data (e.g. .shp .dbf and .shx and others if any) that you used to produce a map
8. include **all** gis and regular data that you will use for merging, say excel or text or sas file, etc (if any)
9. include "metadata" containing at least: what is U/A; # of obs; data source name, including url
10. do **not** need a "journal" that explains steps–e.g. how you merged gis data with regular data: any problems you encountered, any additional steps you had to take to clean data/recode variables/change storage type etc; but you may include it if it helps to make your case for a good GIS project–it does not have to be as detailed as earlier in ps, may just only list very major steps; or in fact do not really need journal–because there will be some description of what you did in text anyway!

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general notes (binding from ps1) and progressively more important in later ps: focus on making the map(s) interesting and pretty; tell a story; answer the 'so what?' question (see below for elaboration)

general notes **(always the same):**

always submit:

- the maps(s) (pdf), can be combioned in one file with "metadata" and "journal"
- all data: raw gis data (e.g. .shp .dbf and .shx and others if any), and any other data (e.g., .csv, .xls) that you used to produce a map
- "metadata" (pdf or txt) containing at least: what is U/A; # of obs; data source name, including url; can combine with "journal" if you like
- "journal" (pdf or txt) that briefly enumerates (and perhaps explains) steps you've taken, any problems you've encountered; also can use it to ask questions!

general ideas:

- the map needs to be "pretty" (syllabus: pretty.pdf): must have legend, title, cut decimal points, make fonts small, etc)
- the map must be "interesting" (syllabus: pretty.pdf, final_project.pdf): ask yourself the "so what?" question; esentailly, you need to tell as story with your map
- in addition to submission, you will usually (depending on how we do on time) present the map in class (max 5-7min (depending on class size); i will cut you off!)

tips:

- start early; start tomorrow or the day after tomorrow or tonight! otherwise you'll forget it...and then, next week polish it
- use your (gis) data–again, if you do not have dataset, have a look at data_sources.csv from the class, or email me
- you cannot use the data I used in the class (or that I am using in the slides posted on the website for the future classes)
- assignments are due by the beginning of the class in Sakai's dropbox
- the only allowed format for output is pdf and txt (no ms word etc)
- if you choose to work in a group, write down the names of people you worked with; otherwise we'll subtract points
- do not use exclusively variables from datasets that i have done in class
- that is, you cannot just submit something that i have done in class

basics:

- for big files (that do not fit into email) use something like wordpress or dropbox and give us the link
- do not double-zip (zipped file in a zipped file)
- per url's give exact addresses, not just generic (e.g. `http://census.gov`)- i must be able o find it; sometimes there is no generic URL–then give steps: what I need to click