**GEOG 510: Final Project Grading Rubric**

*Final Report due by Monday, May 5, 12:30 PM*

200 points (20% of total grade)

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| **Item** | **Points** |
| Paper Organization:   * Having an appropriate title and your name **(5)** * Having appropriate and logical headings/sub-headings **(10)** * Appropriate paper length (2000 – 3000 words) **(10)** * Formatting and writing quality **(10)** * Saving the document in the correct format and naming convention **(5)** | **40** |
| Content:   * **Introduction (10)**   + Focus on outcome that is the focus of your analysis   + Some evidence that this is a worthwhile endeavor   + Presented logically with enough detail and connects to research question * **Research Question (12)**   + Easily identifiable in text   + Well-defined health related outcome (pattern)   + Well-defined underlying factor that may potentially drive the health outcome (process) * **Background (8)**   + Provides further context and justification of your question/analysis   + Appropriate given the researh question * **Materials and Methods (total = 40)**   + **Data (20)**     - Data source(s) are properly identified and presented in enough detail that another person can realistically get the data     - Data preparation steps are presented appropriately, enough so that another person could potentially reproduce the data   + **Methods (20)**     - Methods are presented in appropriate level of detail so that another person could realistically reproduce the same method (includes providing spatial neighbor definition) (includes walking through details of OLS to spatial regression)     - Appropriateness and robustness of your analytical methods for answering your research question(using sensitivity analysis) (not relying on mapping/visual interpretation as a method) * **Results (30)**   + Correct outputs presented from the methods described above **(**not missing important details, but also not including too much unnecessary details)   + Correct interpretation of results – are you interpreting Moran’s I, beta coefficients, p-values etc. correctly? * **Discussion/Conclusion (15)**   + Adequate discussion of how the results of the analysis relate to your topic/outcome and your research question   + Mentioning some limitations/future work   + Short wrap-up of main takeaways of your paper * **GIS Justification (15)**   + Concrete examples of why spatial thinking is important for the topic you are studying   + Concrete examples of how/why GIS processing/analysis is important to you answering research question   + Specificity of justification to your project (focus on the relevance of spatial thinking, not mapping, interventions, and policy) * **Maps/Figures/Tables (20)**   + Appropriateness given your research question(s)   + Correctly representing figure numbers and referring to them in text   + Design/Display – how well are the maps/figures/tables presented? Do they have all the requirements (Screenshots will be heavily penalized)? Are they correctly labelled and described? * **References (10)**   + Citing atleast 8 sources in a consistent format (APA, MLA, etc).   + Including bibliography at the end | **160** |
| **Extra Credit: (upto 50 points)**   * I will consider awarding upto 50 points worth of extra credit depending on how much I feel you went above and beyond what was expected of the final project, and how publication-worthy your project may be. * If you conducted a regression analysis on your own final project data (Assignment 4 extra-credit), include it in your final project because even a non-horrible simple OLS regression will fetch 10 points) | **0-50** |