Geography 109
Final Project
75 points

Overview:
Students will be expected to demonstrate competence in locating/collecting spatial data, analyzing/manipulating data, and map-making. Students will be required to submit a proposal that details what they will be mapping, who their audience might be, what data they will use to produce their map(s), and which mapping software they will be using. Each student must also submit a final report which includes a description of their methods and possible interpretations of their results. During the final week of class, each student will present their map(s).

Deliverables:
1. A project proposal, **due end of week 11**,
2. At least one map that you created, **due end of week 14**,
3. A report that describes your project's process and outcomes, **due end of week 14**, and
4. A final video presentation (less than 2 minutes), **due end of week 15.**

Step 1: Discuss what you want to map with the instructor.
Your project report will need to do four important things:
- State your intent: What do you want to represent?
- Situate your intent: What are the audiences for your map? Why might they care?
- Describe your data needs: what sources offer data that you will allow you to make your map?, and
- Outline your mapmaking process: how will you get from collecting raw data to a finished map?

Step 2: Prepare your final project proposal.
Complete the attached project proposal form. Take this step seriously, as the amount of detail you include determines how meaningfully your instructor can respond to your proposal. The ideal proposal is both complete and succinct. Think of this proposal as an opportunity to hone your technical communication skills. This proposal is **due in week 11**.

Step 3: Locate data and prepare that data for mapping.
Finding the data to complete your project may be the most difficult and time-consuming part of this assignment. (It can also be fun!) This data may be original; it may be in digital form available on the web; it may be generated from a series of grounded observations. Be creative! You may also need to prepare that data (digitize it, analyze it, etc.) in order to make it mappable.

Step 4: Make maps.
Drawing upon the methods/exercises from the course, you should make maps. In doing so, pay attention to the principles of cartography – design and layout; effective use of text, color, visual variables, etc. Again, be creative! Make several versions of the map and share those versions with your instructor as well as fellow class members.

Step 5: Prepare your project report.
Project reports should be no more than three typed pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, not including references and visuals. Your project report should be organized into the following four sections:

1. Introduction
- State your map intent and audience
- What prompted this map creation?

2. Data and Mapping
- Describe your data and the source of your data (what data did you use and where did you get them? What data attributes are you most interested in? (Don't just write "I used US Census data".)
- Describe any additional steps you had to take to prepare, manipulate or analyze your data.
- Describe the process you followed to create your map(s). What technology did you use? Feel free to use flow charts or other supporting visuals if this is helpful to your explanation.

3. Interpretation and Discussion
- In this section, provide a detailed interpretation of the results of your process. Reflect on the process: How was it successful/unsuccessful? Was it surprising? How well does the map address your intended audience?
- You also need to relate your mapmaking effort to the topics from the class.
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of your project?
- What further mapmaking does your project suggest?

4. References
- You **must** include full bibliographic citations for any material drawn from other sources.
- References should consistently follow a standardized citation format (APA, Chicago, Harvard, etc., for instance: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/).

Step 6: Prepare your project presentation.
When preparing your video presentation, which should be no longer than 2 minutes, you may want to make use of the Media Depot in Young Library. Any of the following formats are acceptable:

1. Use QuickTime Player (or equivalent) on your personal computer to produce a short video of your screen with your voiceover describing your project and showing the results.

2. Use your mobile device (iPhone, Android, iPad, etc.) to create a recording of your description of your project and results.

3. Use the Record Slide Show option in PowerPoint to save a voiceover during your slideshow which describes your project and results.

Final Project Grade Sheet

Aspect of Final Project	Evaluative Considerations	Score
Proposal	Does the proposal clearly state the project intent, audience, possible data sources, and software needs?	__ /10
Introduction	Does intro state a research question, focus or problem?	__ / 5
Data and Mapping	Needs to identify and describe the data sources used, and specify what steps were taken to prepare them for analysis and mapping. Needs to describe the mapmaking process in detail.	__ /25
Interpretation and Discussion	How do these results answer or inform your intended product?	__ / 15
References	Are data sources cited either on the map or in a reference section? Are textual materials appropriately cited?	__ / 5
Video Presentation	Were visual examples used? Were the methods discussed? Were final results discussed?	__ / 15
	TOTAL:	__ / 75

Final Project Proposal

Use the following questions to guide your thinking and research while developing your project. Try to be as specific as possible: the ideal proposal is both complete and succinct. Your proposal is worth 10 points, or about 15% of your final project grade, and is due at the **end of week 11**.

What will you be mapping?

Who is your intended audience?

What data will you be using to produce your maps? What is the source of these data (e.g., US Census Bureau, Centers for Disease Control)? Why are you choosing to use this source?

What mapping skills and software will you make use of? How will you need to prepare the data to make it into a map and what type of map will this be?