

TOWSON UNIVERSITY
Department of Geography and Environmental Planning
Geography 673 -- Dr. Morgan

Applications Project/Research Paper

All students are required to prepare either an applications project or a research paper on a topic related to the seminar theme. The application project should be one developed by the student using a GIS, such as ArcGIS or IDRISI. The paper for an applications project should: 1) describe the purpose and nature of the application (including the data and type of GIS software used); 2) identify the analytical functions used in the application (including the sequence of functions performed on the data); and 3) discuss the results of the analysis (What types of maps or tables were prepared? Were the maps and tables "appropriate" given the purpose and nature of the application? How was error handled or described? How were, or could, the results be used?). Although there is no page length requirement for the paper, per se, I suspect that typed copies of your papers will average from 10 to 20 pages (including graphics, if any). Research papers should explore a topic related to the seminar theme via a thorough review of published GIS literature (refereed and non-refereed).

The applications project/research paper, which will represent 80 percent of your course grade, will be assigned a letter grade. The letter grade for the applications project/research paper will be based on the paper itself (80 percent), and your oral presentation of the paper (20 percent). The equivalent numerical grades for the research paper letter grades are as follows: A+ = 100; A = 95; A-/B+ = 90; B = 85; B-/C+ = 80; C = 75; F = 55. A typed proposal (one page) for the applications project/research paper is due on Monday, June 8. Your proposal should discuss the topic you plan to investigate, the GIS you plan to use, and/or the sources of literature you plan to research. Class presentations of the applications project/research paper will be conducted on Monday, July 20 and 27. Presentations will be limited to 30 minutes (including time for questions and answers) and must be presented using PowerPoint slides. Please note that your written paper is due on Monday, July 27. The paper must conform to the style sheet used by the Association of American Geographers for the Annals. A link to the style sheet can be found at http://pages.towson.edu/morgan/pages/students_graduate.htm

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