



Final Project - Geos 378

This class entails in an independent 'final project' that each student carries out. A project allows you to work on a specific topic of your interest and apply all the knowledge that you gain during the course of the class.

I believe that the best way to learn is by trying to do something that is not 'tailor-made'. Going through the manual of a software package may help you to understand the structure of a particular software package and know where to find some tools, but stumbling into new challenges that come up as you experiment with new data sets, helps you think further, find creative ways to solve the problem and learn a lot more.

The project is an important part of the course. It constitutes 40 percent of the course mark (though it will take more than 40 percent of the time and effort that you put in the course). To ease the work towards the end of the semester, it is good if you start thinking and outlining your final project right in the beginning of the semester.

The requirements from the final project are

1. A five to eight page written report that would include the following
 - a. Title, name, course, department etc.
 - b. Abstract
 - c. Problem definition/Introduction (what is the problem or the issue that you intend to address and why you chose to do this)
 - d. Specific objectives (your objectives should be definite and achievable)
 - e. Brief description of study area and data used
 - f. Method (strategy for analysis)
 - g. Results and interpretation
 - h. Advantages/Limitations/Recommendations
 - i. References
2. The second requirement is presenting your work to your peers in a short 10 minute presentation. The presentation will basically incorporate the information that you have already compiled in your report.

The final project could be an extension of a research work that you are already carrying out or a topic that you've always found wanted to work on. It may or may not relate to geology or earth systems. Some examples are

1. making/updating a geological map of an area
2. vegetation distribution map of a part of Alaska
3. change detection map of an Arctic river
4. making/updating the UAF campus map
5. user interpretation of maps of Alaska displayed in different projections
6. GIS analysis of petty crime in Fairbanks
7. Seasonal distribution of fish and wildlife in Fairbanks and vicinity

Feel free to discuss your project ideas with me anytime!!