Project Evaluation Matrices for Geography 401

Always check the instructions on the Course Requirement web page as well.

Evaluation of Project #1: Geographic Traditions and Standards

CONTENT OF PAPER

- Define geography; provide an example or two.
- Both Traditions and Standards discussed.
- Authors and references cited (3 geographers plus Standards).
- Thoroughness of discussion for each author/idea and between authors/ideas
- Avoid phrases such as “if you will,” “powerful,” “it speaks for itself.”
- Don’t use exclusionary language; it is not scientifically accurate. Science always deals with plurals and men and women are usually involved.
- When quoting authors who make inaccurate statements, use (sic) after the error. If they use one word that you disagree with, use “quotations.” You can use “they” for one author to avoid making assumptions about gender.

TOTAL POINTS OFF (PLUS AND MINUS POINTS)

Evaluation of Project #2: Geographical Concepts

CONTENT OF PAPER

- Concepts are neither traditions nor standards. Don’t use them interchangeably. Themes, standards, and concepts express the hierarchy of geographical analysis.
- Number of concepts cited.
- Summarize and evaluate the major geographical concepts from our discussion in class and elsewhere, such as the Geographical Standards.
- Group the concepts under each of the major geographical approaches and traditions from Assignment#1. Be sure to reference the relevant citations.

TOTAL POINTS OFF (PLUS AND MINUS POINTS)
Evaluation of Project #3: Your Data

CONTENT OF PAPER

• Data must show very specific attributes: what does the data look like in Excel, for example.
• Don’t just describe what you might do (it is too late for this); show some kinds of results in this Project.
• This assignment must include the words or phrases you used in your search, the name of the literature data sources where you looked, and finally an annotated bibliography. Use the conventions and examples from the Annals. Be sure to include the following for each citation:
  1) Identify in considerable detail the main questions or hypotheses that each of the citations make.
  2) What kinds of evidence are presented to prove the arguments?
  3) How do the references relate to your own research project in general for now?
• Provide considerable detail, give examples, provide one preliminary but crucial map from your data, and then relate your data to the geographical traditions (Assignment#1) and concepts (Assignment#2).
• Each assignment must be organized around this assignment topic only.

TOTAL POINTS OFF (PLUS AND MINUS POINTS)

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Evaluation of Project #4: Review of the Literature

CONTENT OF PAPER

• Number of citations mentioned in text.
• Length, details, and quality of annotations.
• Don’t include personal information on the authors or repeat what the citation already tells readers.
• Related to your research project.
• Provide an annotated bibliography.
• Use the conventions of the Annals.
• Use one consistent bibliographic style.
• Differentiate (bold or inset) the citation from the annotation.
• Book and journal names must be differentiated from article titles.
• Include academic journals, in print and on the web, as well as web only citations.
• JSTOR research are not public assess web sites, so don’t list web link in this case.

TOTAL POINTS OFF (PLUS AND MINUS POINTS)

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Evaluation of Project #5: Research Questions

• State the general and specific research questions and/or hypothesis for your project in considerable detail. A general description of your research topic will not do now.
• Relate these to
  1) the readings on this topic, particularly O'Leary (chapter 4, pp. 52-53, in the 2012 edition or chapter 3, pp. 37-38, in the 2014 edition),
  2) the relevant literature on your topic, and
  3) the relevant geographical traditions and concepts.
• Cite the relevant references for each aspect of the assignment.

TOTAL POINTS OFF (PLUS AND MINUS POINTS)

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Evaluation of Project #6: Project Outline

• Create a new project title that captures the whole project
• Titles must include the geographical nature of the project, the specific content, and where conducted (e.g., county, country, etc.)
• Add a new overarching introduction that includes all aspects of the paper. Why would readers want to spend time reading this project?
• Edit and integrate each section to fit together as a whole. See O'Leary, p. 281, and as discussed in class. You will probably exclude much of the material (from the geographical traditions, concepts, and even literature) that you generated earlier in the final papers. Use only previous materials that are relevant to your specific project topics.
• Identify the geographical traditions(s) and geographical concept(s) that are relevant to your project.
• Use appropriate headers and sub-headers, tables, diagrams, maps, and references. This will form the structure of your written paper and the fundamental elements for your PowerPoint.
• Data analysis and results are necessary by now.
• One bibliography must be placed at the end of the paper now. Use the annotation, where appropriate, in the text to justify your hypothesis. No bibliography after each section.

TOTAL POINTS OFF (PLUS AND MINUS POINTS)

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Evaluation of Project #7 and #9:
Preliminary (submitted to D2L) and Final PowerPoints (oral presentation in class)

Present your preliminary and final PowerPoint (PPT) based on all the readings, assignments, and discussions that we have had in this course.

- Edit your text – simplify; no paragraphs of words; number your ideas.
- Edit the order of the slides: use hierarchy of ideas; be logical, e.g., objectives/research questions before background.
- Link your research questions to the data analysis; include only results (maps and text) that are relevant to your research questions. This applies to other materials too, such as background information.
- Make explicit reference to the relevant literature, e.g., (Smith 2012).
- Maps and graphs: important elements must be readable, including meaningful legends and sources.
- Which geographical tradition(s) and concepts are relevant to your project?
- Final data analysis must include tables, maps, and graphs; highlight major findings; relate to the research questions, literature, and geographical ideas.
- By now avoid “man” in “man-land tradition:” inaccurate and exclusionary.

TOTAL POINTS OFF (PLUS AND MINUS POINTS)

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Evaluation of Project #8 and #10: Preliminary & Final Papers

Draft papers (#8) were primarily graded on structure and organization, as indicated in the course materials and the previous comments.

Final papers (#10) will be graded on structure and organization and how well all aspect of the papers are integrated and referenced. Data analysis and visual presentation will play a major part of the final paper grading.

- Titles of papers, sections must have explicitly geographical references. Don’t cite the number of the Geographic Standards, but rather actually spell them out for the readers.
- Abstracts with keywords always appear at the start of papers.
- Tables, maps, graphs, and the literature must be integrated within the papers, not placed at the end of the papers. Place these immediately after they are first mentioned.
- Use appendices for information that is too long for the papers, such as questionnaires.
- Make maps large enough so they can be read – at least one full column or two-column widths. Remove unnecessary boxes and spaces; adjust legends to fit the map spaces.
- Your data must be mapped in some way. Think geographically.
- All tables, graphs, and maps must have a number (top, and cited in the text), title (top), and source (at the bottom). Include only important figures. We do not want to see every map you made.
- References at the end must all be actually cited within the papers, otherwise exclude them.

TOTAL POINTS OFF (PLUS AND MINUS POINTS)