GEOG 469: Visualizing Change

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As a major part of the course, students will be assigned to groups that use geospatial and other data to understand and visualize a location that has undergone a significant change over time. The groups will then work to help make the people in the communities affected by these changes more aware of the changes that took place and their implications though presentations, websites, handouts, and other means. Final reports will also be produced.

Project Guidelines

Goal

The project is designed to give you experience using a wide variety of techniques to explore change, and practice explaining what you find to stake holders and the general public.

Selecting a project

On 3/11 you will be giving a choice of five projects to work on. Although we will attempt to give each person his or her first choice of project, this may not be possible. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be flexible during this process.

Deliverables

List of 10 things you need to know and how you can find the answers

This assignment will serve as a kickoff for the project. Each group will come up with a list of 10 important questions related to its project and figure out a way to answer each question. The groups will then attempt to obtain the answers to the questions.

Project website

The project website should contain the results of the project. It should look professional, and all information should be presented in a compelling way that is understandable and interesting to the average citizen.

Community outreach plan

The community outreach plan should be a detailed explanation for how you will reach out to the community and interact with the project sponsor (If there is one). Although there is a lot of flexibility, all plans should include at least one in person presentation, and a plan to make the public aware of the results through social media, traditional media, or both. The plan itself should be 1 – 3 pages long, highly detailed, and include your logic for reaching out to the community in the ways that you selected.

Community outreach implementation

The community outreach implementation is your putting the community outreach plan into action. It is important that you follow best practices for doing this (guidance will be provided) in order to enhance rather than harm your reputations as well as the reputation of JMU, and for you work to have the maximum impact. Student groups will meet with the instructors during finals week to discuss their outreach and to receive a grade on this section of the project.

Class presentation

Student groups will present their work and talk about their community outreach experiences in a 10 – 15 presentation during finals week.

Timetable

3/11: Student form project teams and spend time on the project

3/18: List of 10 things you need to know and how you can find the answers due

4/1: Community outreach plan due

4/25: Final version of the website due

4/26: Groups present their projects to the class and meet with instructors to discuss their community outreach experiences

Grading

List of 10 things you need to know and how you can find the answers: 5%

Community outreach plan: 10%

Project website, including quality of visualizations and other information on it: 50%

Community outreach implementation: 30%

Class presentation: 5%