GIS 4043/5101

Introduction to GIS

Assignment II: Journal Article Review (100 points)

**Overview**

For Assignment II, you will write a short review of a journal article dealing with GIS. There is a pre-selected set of articles on Canvas from which you must choose. Select an article from those on Canvas and write ***exactly a 2-3 page*** summary. You ***must*** use one of the articles from Canvas in this assignment.

**Assignment Rationale and Details**

Often times we need to explain to a colleague or supervisor how GIS is used in a particular application, research study, policy context, etc. It is a very important skill to learn how to succinctly communicate technical GIS research details. Moreover, learning how to write precisely about GIS and scientific material in general is a very valuable talent that one can develop.

The secret to writing a good journal article review, whether it be about GIS or any subject, is to (a) spend time understanding the article’s aims, scope, and important details and to (b) carefully organize your review, putting ideas and concepts into your own words. With this in mind, your article review ***should*** (1) summarize the main goals of the article, (2) discuss how GIS and/or GIScience manifest themselves in the article, (3) report on any important findings or results from the article, and (4) provide some criticism of the article. With respect to the criticism requirement, (4), discuss at least one positive and one negative aspect of the article. For example, if you think that the author(s) improperly used a particular GIS database, then that would be something you could note. Please aim for substantive criticism and avoid making unhelpful comments like ‘the maps were ugly’ or ‘the article was too technical and hard to read,’ as points may be deducted for these types of statements.

**Assignment Specifics**

Respond to all the requested content considerations outlined above. Assignments should be ***exactly*** 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, with no excess spacing between paragraphs or subheadings to be used. Use a 10 to 12-point font, and set 1-inch margins all around the page, with no page numbering. A cover sheet (which does not count towards the page total) should contain your name and the title of the article you are reviewing. Formatting as described here will count substantially into the final grade and may be graded ‘all or nothing.’ Begin the assignment on the first line of the next page (do not put your name or a title on the first actual assignment page). You should write in the 3rd person (no use of ‘I’) and do not quote text directly from the article you review or you will lose substantial points; you should put the article’s ideas into your own words. Rules of grammar, writing, spelling, etc. will be enforced as necessary. Do not repeat the title of the research paper in your essay; this already should appear on your title page.

The assignment is via digital submission in Canvas. Any assignment received after this time will be subject to the late paper policy described in the course syllabus.