

## **Geography 597.02: FINAL PROJECT (THIS IS 15% OF YOUR GRADE)**

This assignment has two parts:

- 1) **an oral presentation** (25 points): These will be given during the 9<sup>th</sup> week of class (exact dates will be announced later).
- 2) **a research paper** (75 points): This will be due on Wednesday, March 7th at the beginning of lecture.

**ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION:** You work for a local television station as a reporter and one of your duties is to research and present stories of interest to the general public. Recently your station has been running a series of reports focused on climatic and environmental changes. Your boss has given you this assignment and if you do well, you may be given more air time or a better spot, both of which will help you achieve your ultimate goal as the prime time anchor person. Your boss has asked you to research a topic, to present to him or her (in this case to the class, Karin and me) a 5-page research report with an additional page containing your references, and to present on the air (to the class, Karin and me) a 4 minute spotlight news report as part of the evening newscast.

**PRESENTATION:** You may be creative with your presentation and you may use either an overhead power point, but these are limited to 2 images. News reporters usually use only one or two images to illustrate their story. If you are using power point files please send them by email to Dr. EMT the day before class so they can be loaded on the computer and ready to open.

**PAPER:** Your paper is to be typed, double spaced with the references on a separate page. Your paper should be no less than 5 and no more than 6 pages in which you will describe your research. Note that this does not include your reference page. Your paper should include an Introduction [remember to tell the reader why your topic is important], a Discussion [reports the information that you gleaned during your literature-based research and cites the sources of your information when it is presented], and a Conclusion [synthesizes the state of the issue and your conclusions on the topic]. Finally you should provide a final paragraph that gives your opinion on this topic.

**REFERENCES:** You must consult at least **7 sources** of information (these are your references). You **MAY NOT** count the class text book (Miller) as one of the 7 references, but you should use your book as a resource to guide you to other information. Your book has a section at the back with "Further Readings" associated with each chapter. This provides an excellent starting point. You are limited to ONE reference from a web page and ONE reference that is a book as these are often outdated. Thus, you must have at least (a minimum of) 5 sources from the peer-reviewed literature in addition to your one allowed web site, one allowed book and your book that does not count. Please refrain from copying information from your sources. Read the information and then summarize it in your own words. If you cite statistics, you must provide the exact reference for that information. Please do not make your paper simply a compilation of facts, but incorporate discussion of concepts as well as the results of the studies that you read to learn more about your topic.