

## **Introduction**

This assignment is designed to reinforce the ideas of map composition discussed in class. Your assignment is to create a full-color map based on the given map elements. Arrange the various map elements so they present the data in a cohesive, well-organized map that emphasizes good map design and organization.

A few things to consider:

- A) How are each of the map composition elements related to each other (e.g. what is the relationship of the three maps) and how they should be placed on the paper in an arrangement that makes intuitive sense to your reader? What map(s) are the scale bar and north arrow referring to?
- B) Where are the appropriate places to place each of the map elements following what you have learned about how people read maps?
- C) How can color be used to tie the elements together into a cohesive whole?
- D) How can the fonts and text size be varied for the importance of the various elements?

You will be using Excel and Adobe Illustrator for the remainder of the semester, so if you have any questions please come find either the TA or myself and we will give you a hand. I am keeping the directions intentionally vague - I am personally convinced that the only way to have student learn technical things and learn the computer problem solving skills so important in today's world is to have you keep trying things for yourself. Also, if you cannot figure out how something in Illustrator works - use the help. By the end of the semester you will have mastered it so don't worry.

## **Computer Directions**

The file you need to use is available on the website as data under project 5 or on the GEOG332 network drive. You should download or copy the files into your home directory. However, I would strongly suggest making a set of project folders to hold each of your projects. So you should make a **project05** folder in your home directory and save the file in there.

1. After saving the necessary files to your directory, begin making a map of **the African American Population in Eastern Texas** using Adobe Illustrator. It is available on all the computers in the labs.
2. The map must be confined by a neatline (a rectangle) measuring 9 inches **wide** by 7 inches **high**. The box you see in Adobe Illustrator surrounding the map elements is **NOT** a neatline. It represents the default size of the piece of a paper the map will be printed on - things will not print if they fall outside the dotted box. You need to make a neatline of the correct size. This can be done as follows.
  - a) select the rectangle tool.
  - b) In an area on the page with nothing present, double click.
  - c) This will bring up a dialog box requesting the size of the rectangle to create. Simply type in 9 x 7
  - d) If the units are not in inches, you need to go under File → Preferences → Units & Undo and set the units. I typically set General to inches and stroke and type in points.

The neatline should be centered on the piece of paper so that it will print out correctly.

You may break the neatline for inset boxes, legends, etc. However, if this option is used, then the overall dimensions of the map must still measure 9 inches **wide** by 7 inches **high**. Additionally, if the neatline is not rectangular in shape and does not completely enclose the map elements, the greatest dimensions of the map must be 9 inches **wide** by 7 in **high**.

3. You may change the color of any map element (grouped objects of the same color are considered an element) and adjust the figure-ground colors as you deem necessary. I chose the colors randomly not to be the best ones.
4. You may change the size of objects, however, ***if you alter the size of the main map (map with different shaded counties) you must also change the size of the bar and area scales proportionately.***
5. Selection of type fonts is your choice and you may add any additional labels necessary for clarification of the map elements. **However, all text must be readable (e.g. don't try to conserve too much space by making your text too dinky to read).**
6. Your name must appear with the data source statement. It should be relatively small compared with most other type used on the map. It should be structured as follows:

Produced by Fly-by-Night Cartography, Inc.  
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau.  
Cartographer: Your Name

### **Turn in for grading**

Once you have completed your project, you need to print it on the color laser printer and turn it in for grading. The color printer is called **GeogColor** on GeogAcad.

**If you have any problems do not hesitate to see me.**