

MATH 325 MODELING GROUP PROJECTS

You will complete a modeling project as assigned (usually from the textbook). In addition to completing the model, you should think of a few questions and use your model to answer them.

Turn in a hard copy of your complete paper and your peer evaluations. In addition, submit another copy of your code on Moodle.

Presentation: Each presentation should last about 15 minutes. All three group members are responsible for presenting. Feel free to use the whiteboard, the document camera, the internet, Powerpoint, physical demonstrations, etc. You have a lot of freedom. Be sure to practice before you give your talk; you may find it more difficult than you expect, especially the timing.

Your presentation will be graded on the following criteria:

- (1) *Overview:* Do you make clear at the beginning what questions you're addressing and how you'll address them?
- (2) *Content:* Do you address all the issues in the assignment?
- (3) *Clarity:* Is all new terminology and notation defined? Are your tables and graphs clear? Is your code well commented and easy to follow? Do you have a good balance between oral and visual information?
- (4) *Style and organization:* Is the talk polished? Does it look like you have practiced it? Is the talk well organized and well planned? Did all three members participate in the presentation?

Hint: One of the most common mistakes that students make in presentations is rushing through the introduction. Make sure to spend plenty of time setting up the problem. Remember, the audience won't care about the answers you're giving if they don't understand the questions. (This is not as much of a problem when every group is doing the same project, but keep it in mind anyway.)

Paper: There is no upper or lower page limit – make it as long as it needs to be, and no longer. If possible, include figures and tables in the body of the paper, rather than in a big bunch at the end. Code can go in the body or at the end, whichever you think makes the paper easier to follow. The code should be well commented - I should be able to tell what it does by looking at it. For many of you the write-up may include more information than you will be able to present (15 minutes isn't as long as you'd think). The paper should be written in complete sentences, with correct grammar and punctuation. It should read like a research paper, not like a homework assignment. Lastly, it is very important to cite any outside sources and to include a bibliography. If you use existing datasets, be sure to cite them. Be aware of Agnes Scott's strict policy on plagiarism!

Your paper will be graded on the following criteria:

- (1) *Content:* Do you address all of the issues in the assignment? Is your work correct and complete? Have you applied your model to answer questions?
- (2) *Can the paper stand on its own?* Can the paper be understood by someone who didn't see the presentation? Can they understand the code?
- (3) *Style:* Is the paper well written (including punctuation and grammar)?
- (4) *Citations:* Are all outside sources cited appropriately?
- (5) *Graphics:* Are your tables and figures clearly labeled? Are they easily understandable? Do they add to the paper?