Social Explorer Mapping Project

*U.S. History, 1865 to Present*

Prof. Winston

**Project Overview**

[Social Explorer](https://www.socialexplorer.com/product) allows you to explore and visualize demographic data. While the program provides access to many sources, you can only use the decennial census of the United States for this project. The census is a powerful record of U.S. history, reaching back to 1790 and recurring every 10 years, that is ripe for data analysis. Social Explorer tables will allow you to maneuver through the many years and categories of the census and begin plotting your project. Then, you will you use the mapping feature to visualize and analyze census data related to a theme of your choosing. Finally, you will use Social Explorer’s story function to tell a story of change over time using maps of census data that you created.

**Project Timeline**

Week 5: *In-class census tutorial*

We will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of census research. I will guide you through Social Explorer’s table features so you can begin surveying the census and brainstorm potential topics for your project.

Week 6: *In-class mapping tutorial*

We will review some mapping and visualization projects and discuss the use of spatial analysis by historians. Then, I will preview the mapping features of Social Explorer and provide examples of Social Explorer-created maps and stories.

Weeks 8-10: *Individual meetings with Prof. Winston*

You will meet with me individually to make sure you are pursuing a feasible project.

Week 11: *Project proposal due*

Consider my suggestions from your individual meeting and prepare a proposal that meets the requirements explained in a separate handout

Week 15: *Project due and in-class presentations*

You will present your project to the class and field any questions from your colleagues.

**Assignment**

Create a series of maps using Social Explorer to tell a story of change over time within the scope of our class.

You must describe the change over time your map depicts and that you found in the U.S. Census tables. Crucial to this is to place your story of change over time in the context of larger historical phenomena that you have read about and that we have discussed. For example, if I created a map that demonstrated changing migration patterns between Latin American countries and the United States after 1980, I would discuss changing immigration laws, U.S. foreign policy, and militarization of the border. You may also want to explain any difficulties you had with the software, potential shortcomings of your findings, and any new questions you may have regarding the topic you selected.

**Requirements**

*Mapping projects must do all of the following:*

1. Present maps that tell a story of change over time.
2. Include at least four maps.
3. Fall within the time frame of this course (1865-2005) and only use census data and census years (every 10 years, 1870, 1880, etc.).
4. Include a 1.5- to 2-page essay that explains the story of change over time and how it relates to historical moments from readings and class.

*Your essay should describe at least one of the following:*

1. The shortcomings of the software or your story.
2. The difficulties you had with creating your maps.
3. Any new questions you have about the period.

*You must submit:*

1. An exported PowerPoint of your story.
2. A link to your story.
3. 1.5- to 2-page paper that explains your story.