# Final Project Assignment

## Schedule

April 14: Group members and region choices worked out

April 28: Project update meetings with Brent

May 17: Final draft of projects due

Finals Day (Wed, May 21 2-4pm): Presentations (PowerPoint due at least 1 hour prior to class time)

## Logistics

Group Size: Three to Four

Paper Length: 10 pages (a couple more than that is okay).  Figures, etc. do not count ☺
Those should be included, but are extra when considering the page count.  Please shoot for 1.5 or single spacing.

Grading: 25 percent presentation, 75 percent paper; single grade for both for the whole group.

## Details

Your assignment is to form a group, pick a region of California, and write a "mini-chapter" on that region.  Your model should be the chapters in the book.  As a result, you must choose a uniform region.  Each "mini-chapter" should include all the information that a normal book chapter would include, such as primary/secondary/tertiary/quaternary economic activities, settlement history, and important cultural factors.  However, remember that each chapter in the book is defined by and focuses on dominant characteristics, so your "mini-chapter" should focus on these as well.  If you pick a uniform region that has only one dominant characteristic, be sure to include information about other human activities in the region as well!

Importantly, the tone of your "mini-chapter" should match the tone of your book.  This is a formal writing exercise and not one in which you should use colloquial language.

You will have to do extensive outside research for this project.  Your sources can and should include books, newspapers, magazines, official websites, and others.  You should also be sure to look for empirical data as much as possible, as well as maps, etc.  IF YOU NEED HELP FINDING A SOURCE FOR A PARTICULAR TYPE OF INFORMATION, ASK BRENT!!!  Also, be sure to include your sources in your final report (note: this does not count in your page count ☺)

While the details of the paper should be fairly obvious from the logistics information above, the presentation requires a bit more explanation. Each presentation will be 10 minutes long. You are responsible for turning in your PowerPoint AT LEAST ONE HOUR BEFORE class time so that I can have them ready to roll prior to class. Each group can decide whether the whole group will present together, or a subgroup (one or more people) will do the whole presentation.

On April 14, you must have chosen a group and gotten your region approved by Brent. On April 28, you will have a meeting with your group and Brent during class at which point Brent will make sure you are on track and HAVE COMPLETED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WORK on the project. Final drafts of the project are due May 17 at midnight, and project presentations will be given during the finals period for the class, which takes place May 21 at 2-4pm.