This group project involves using statistical methods to answer a research question. The research question does not have to change the world. A simpler question is better than an overly ambitious one. However, you should be able to give reasons why someone might want to have answers to your question.

**Some examples of research questions** (some of these have been done by students in previous semesters):

- How much advertising space is there in a particular magazine or newspaper? Do different types of magazines have different amounts of advertising?
- How many students use the library (Olin computer lab, Confer Mac lab, Dive, weight room, pool, etc.) at certain times? Are certain times or days more popular than others?
- What percentage of parking spaces are filled at certain times or days? How does it vary by lot or color? What percentage of cars are in the wrong lot?

**Restrictions:**

- No polls or surveys
- At least one categorical variable and at least one quantitative variable
- You must gather your own data (not use available data).

**The proposed schedule and points for each stage of the project are as follows:**

1. **Choose project teams. By Friday, October 24** (5 pts)

   Teams should have two or three members.

2. **Potential topics. Due Friday, October 24** (5 pts)

   Each team will propose three or four potential research questions. For each question, a very brief (one or two sentences) description should be included. Any project that involves human subjects (and this includes surveys) must be approved by the college’s Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research:

   http://www.gustavus.edu/oncampus/research/irbinstructions.cfm

   I recommend that you do **not** involve human subjects, because you may incur a delay in getting IRB approval.

3. **Preliminary Proposal. Due Friday, October 31** (5 pts)

   (This part must be typed!)

   The proposal is a detailed plan which clearly states the research question and how the research will be carried out. You should not begin collecting data until your proposal is approved. The format for the proposal is detailed on a separate page.
4. Written Proposal, final draft. **Due Thursday, November 6** (25 pts)  
   *(This must be typed!)*  
   The final proposal will be graded in the following manner:  
   - Project Description 5 points  
   - Data Collection 15 points  
   - Plans for Data Analysis 5 points  

5. Data Deadline. **Due Tuesday, November 25** (5 pts)  
   *(Must be typed!)*  
   Prepare a short report detailing your progress to date. Include all data that you have collected so far. Also, discuss such things as any unexpected problems that have arisen and how these problems were resolved, any changes needed in the proposal because of these problems and why the changes were needed, and how the data collection is progressing.  

6. Preliminary Report. **Due Thursday, December 4** (5 pts)  
   *(Typed!)*  
   The format for the written report will be detailed on a separate handout.  

7. Final Report. **Due Thursday, December 11** (150 pts)  
   *(Typed!)*  
   The grading for the final report is detailed on a separate document.