**CSC101 –** *Final Project* **–**In this last assignment, you have the opportunity to do a project on a subject of your own choosing. The subject of your project may be anything you are interested in, but subject to my approval. To avoid having two groups doing a project on the same (popular) subject, I may ask you to take a different spin on the idea. It would make sense for you to choose a subject related to your major field of study, or some topic you enjoy or are familiar with – though this is not required.

Your project will consist of 2 parts:

* An Excel spreadsheet or an Access database (major emphasis)
* A paper describing your project topic (minor emphasis)

You may choose to work on this project alone or in a group of 2 or 3. Groups of 3 are not encouraged unless you feel that your project really needs that many people: I will expect a little more work from a larger group. Soon I will ask you to announce what your project will be about, and who will be working on it.

Here are examples of successful projects from the past:

1. Database of area restaurants

2. Statistics on the Dow Jones Industrials versus 30 Nasdaq stocks

3. Market share of automobile makes in the US over each of the last 12 months

4. Analysis of crash test ratings of cars

5. Data and comparison of various endangered species

6. Comparison of interest rates of various accounts offered by a sampling of banks, savings and loans, and credit unions

7. Analysis of demographic and test score data of elementary schools

8. Comparison of player stats in Major League Soccer

9. Nutrition data for popular entrees at fast food restaurants

10. Caffeine content of foods and drinks

11. Comparison of the 50 brightest stars in the night sky

12. Statistics on competitive law schools

13. Tourist or surfing related data on beaches around the world

You may create your spreadsheet/database from scratch or download an existing one from the Web. As far as quantity is concerned, you should create at least 300 cells of numerical data, but preferably more than this. The best projects may have thousands. For example, if you are starting a spreadsheet from scratch, it should have at least 300 numerical or calculated values in it, preferably more. And if you are downloading a pre-existing spreadsheet, the amount of new data that you compute should be at least 300 cells. But quality and organization are more important than quantity. The extra functions that you add should reveal some relationships or trends among the data, hopefully to the point that a pivot table and charts would be useful.

When downloading data from the Web, you may notice that some data you want is organized into an HTML table rather than a spreadsheet. Rather than retyping these numbers into Excel, there is a way for Excel to interpret the HTML table directly, as you saw in one of our early labs in Excel. It’s called the Web Query, and you can access it by going to Excel’s Data menu and choosing Get External Data From Web.

If you are working in a team you must let me know the members of the team.

Everyone must submit a one page paper giving a brief summary of your work and major conclusions that you drew from the data. If you have interesting images or charts, they can go on a separate page. The paper should reference your sources of information.

Your spreadsheet/database should go beyond the ordinary and routine features. Higher marks will be awarded for features that were not covered in the labs (for example: conditional sums, command buttons).

When you are ready to submit your project, I need the following things:

1. The names of team members if you are working in a team.
2. The spreadsheet or database file (send e-mail or copy to a CD).
3. The one page summary paper from each team member.