Chapter

9

Central Place Theory Mini-Project

Assignment: you are to investigate multiple metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) to determine the validity of the Central Place Theory. You may work with a partner, and the assignment is worth 25 points.

Purpose: to demonstrate the principles of Central Place Theory (CPT) and subsidiary concepts such as threshold and range in real world situations.

Procedure:

1. Start by selecting A SINGLE set of cities within one of the U.S. states listed in the table below:

Population Range	CO (~Denver)	Florida (~WPB)	NC (~Charlotte)	NY (~Albany)	TX (~Dallas)	WA (~Seattle)
50,000-110,000	Centennial	Jupiter	Gastonia	Albany	Oak Lawn	Redmond
10,000-20,000	Englewood	N. Palm Bch.	King's Mtn.	Malta	Uptown	Woodinville
3,500-7,500	Sheridan	Tequesta	Rutherfordton	Charlton	Crandall	Eastgate
<1,500	Indian Hills	Canal Point	Lattimore	Round Lake	Oak Leaf	Echo Lake

- 2. The largest city (with a population of 50,000 to 100,000) is located relatively adjacent to a major metropolitan statistical area (MSA) according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- 3. The next largest city has a population from 10,000 to 20,000, a third city nearby has 3,500 to 7,500, and a fourth city contains than 1,500.
- 4. Highlight the locations on a map, and then search the listings online (yellowpages.com is good) to determine the number of businesses (even if there are not any) in each category listed below (located in each of the four cities).

Businesses/services

- A. Automobile dealers (new cars; major manufacturers only)
- B. Banks
- C. Cellular phone stores
- D. Convenience stores
- E. Grocery stores
- F. Hospitals (or medical center in name)
- G. McDonald's
- H. Hotels/Motels
- I. Movie theaters
- J. Orthopedic surgeons
- K. Radio stations
- L. Gasoline stations
- M. Bowling alleys
- N. Wal-Marts
- O. Hair salons or barber shops
- 5. Use exact wordings listed when searching (except what is in parenthesis). Examine the actual listings (there may be several hits on error). Do not count multiple businesses located at the same address, and be sure to look up places with the actual city locations in the address.
- 6. Create a table with the cities listed across the top, and each category down the left hand column, and itemize the number of each type of business in each city.
- 7. Analyze the nature of your findings relative to the Central Place Theory by summarizing your findings in a report of at least one full paragraph (include words such as threshold, range, low order and high order services).



Date:

Urban Geography