

**Weekly short writing assignment instructions, Spatial ABM, Spring 2007, George
Mason University**

Pick of the reading for the week that cover specific applications (ask me if you are not sure). Answer the following questions:

1. What is the research question addressed by the author(s)?
2. How effectively, in your assessment, does the model developed in the paper address the central research question posed by the author(s)?
3. Discuss how two of the course themes (listed again below) apply to the paper. Do the authors make progress towards meeting these challenges? Would more attention to one of these factors have improved the paper? If so, how? (This constitutes two separate (one paragraph) discussions.)

Your write-up should be approximately (but not much more than) 500 words. You can write up the same paper you are presenting, but please hand in a write-up that is separate than your electronic presentation.

Course Themes:

- Model ontologies and model communication
- Alternative theoretical models of decision making
- Empirical methods for building agent decision models
- Modeling market interactions
- Modeling institutions
- Modeling cross-scale feedbacks and interactions
- Integration of agent-based modeling and GIS
- Understanding the behavior of complex models
- Model verification and validation (esp. pattern-oriented validation)