

# Art 821 Google Earth Project Proposal

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## Background

Google Earth is a virtual globe. It was developed by a company called Keyhole, Inc, and sold to Google in 2004. Google Earth was developed to allow users to “point and zoom to any place on the planet that you want to explore”.<sup>1</sup> The basic earth is composed of satellite images. There are a number of extra features that add to functionality of the simple globe. Using Digital Elevation Models (DEM) from NASA, certain parts of the globe include elevations, like the Grand Canyon and Mount Everest. Google Earth also includes 3d models using a program called SketchUp, images using a program called Panoramio, videos using YouTube, and encyclopedic data using Wikipedia. Some of the more complicated features of Google Earth are the Street View and flight simulator modules.

Google Earth is an exciting tool because it is made up of layers. These layers allow the addition of different content and independent development by outside companies or individuals. This is what we would like to investigate and develop for our Art 821 project.

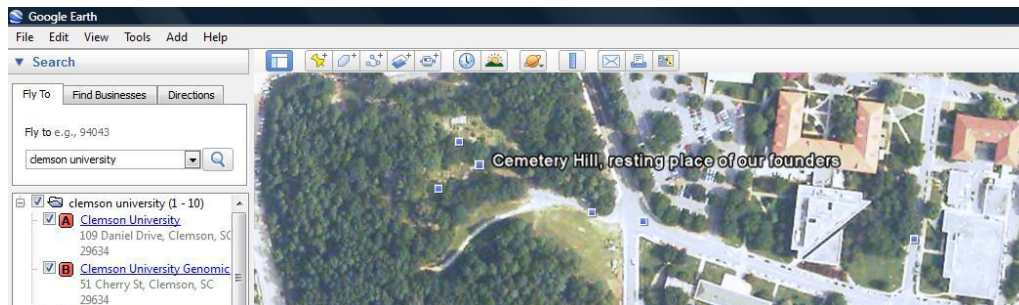
## Proposed Subject

I would like to do a site study of the Woodland Cemetery. Using different digital mediums I would like to research a selection of the grave sites and develop short visual essays on the people buried. These will include a combination of 3d models, digital animations, digital photographs, and digital videos.



## Outputs Desired

Using Google Earth as a delivery platform I would like to create a layer or layers that will celebrate the Woodland Cemetery. The first thing I would like to do is create 3d models in SketchUp of the gravestones that will be the focus of my project. Using digital photographs, videos, and digital animation I would like to create YouTube videos that present short biographies on the individuals who are buried in the cemetery. I would also like to create a webpage that chronicles my process and links to the YouTube videos as an alternative delivery method.



## Methodology and Resources

My first task will be to explore the cemetery and photograph the different possible subjects. I will use my best judgment to select a few possible subjects. After selecting possible subjects I will research the individuals using the Internet and resources available in the libraries on campus. After researching my subjects and going through another round of cuts I will write short biographies on the remaining finalists. I will then create the 3d models of the gravestones and import them into Google Earth. Using the biographies I will storyboard a few video sequences and plan my shoots. After shooting some video footage and recording voice I will use software like Final Cut, Maya, Photoshop, and Shake to create final digital videos. Those videos will then be uploaded to YouTube and imported into Google Earth. Finally I will create a webpage that summarizes the project and provides links to all the content and includes instructions for accessing the content via the Google Earth application.

## Bibliography

1. Wikipedia "Google Earth" [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google\\_earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_earth) 2/2/09
2. Clemson University "Woodland Cemetery"  
[http://www.clemson.edu/administration/bot/Policies/Woodland\\_Cemetery.html](http://www.clemson.edu/administration/bot/Policies/Woodland_Cemetery.html)  
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