

“Final” “Project”

Chaos and Fractals

College of the Atlantic

Spring Term 2026

The “final” “project” is similar to the reflection assignment. It does not need to be comprehensive, in that it most definitely doesn’t need to span or synthesize ideas from the entire course.

Goal. The goal of this assignment is for you to spend time reflecting on and digesting some of the themes of this course. Explore some ideas from the class that have captured your imagination. Your piece should show evidence of sustained inquiry. Find something that interests you or perplexes you and explore. Push your ideas and (gently) push yourself. Ideally, your piece should be emotionally and intellectually satisfying to you. Choose a question, word, phrase, issue, image, equation, person, quotation, or idea from the readings or discussions and dig deeply.

Format. Some of you will write a paper that is an essay or is generally essay-like. If so, your paper should be around three-four pages in length. However, there are many other options:

- You could write a short story, a lyric essay, a poem.
- You could create a drawing, a cartoon, a painting.
- You could collaborate with someone else in the class and record a dialog, or jointly create something.

If you choose a non-essay option, your piece should be roughly equivalent to a three-four page essay. (I honestly don’t know what that means.)

Logistics. I am hoping that most of you will be up for sharing your project in some way. In class on **Monday, June 1** will be mostly devoted to an **exhibition**. This is a chance for people to share/display things they have made. There will be time to informally look at and engage with everybody’s pieces, and also for discussion/feedback if desired. We could probably also have time for one or two presentations. There will also be time for presentations on **Thursday, June 4**, the last day of Spring term.