Final Project Guide

You do not have to have data for this project. You can use this project as a theoretical proposal. If you do have data for the project, you may run the model and test that idea. For this project, be sure to answer each question fully (i.e. not yes/no, give full sentences). You can just answer each question as you go, no formal write up necessary.

1. Pick a scale or theoretical idea from your research field (or something you’ve studied). Basically you just can’t use anything we’ve done as examples in class.
   1. Draw how you would test that model.
   2. Give enough description of the model/idea so that I can tell what’s going on (assume you are talking to someone with statistical knowledge but not psychology knowledge).
   3. Cut and paste this picture into your document.
2. Discuss what type of model you are testing.
   1. CFA? Path? Full SEM? Linear growth? MTMM?
3. Discuss the limitations of SEM/things you have to check for when running a SEM model.
   1. Think about all the things we’ve been working on.
   2. What where the things you had to test for (outliers, residuals, etc.)?
   3. How do you test for those / how did you know that it was a problem?
   4. What might you do if you run into those problems?
4. Very short outline of fit indices.
   1. What fit indices would you use? What values are good/excellent for those fit indices? You can make a table.
   2. If you were to test several models, how might you compare them?
5. If you had the data to test this model – what kind of estimates would you expect?
   1. Label them +/- and strong/weak.
   2. Imagine you had modification indices – which paths might you expect to find to be changed? What would you suggest changing because theory is changing or the current model doesn’t seem logical?
      1. You can kind of “make up” this section, as long as it makes sense. I want you to think about what you might find that’s different from what you expected. Modeling isn’t always perfect…which question in your CFA might be bad? What path in a full SEM might not actually work? Etc.
6. Last! Of all the model types and things we’ve learned – which do you think you might actually use if you had to do statistics in the job/workplace/where-ever you imagine yourself after this degree.