Final Paper

Final Paper's are due May 5th via my email: mlb6496@psu.edu

All students

Include an abstract and write your paper with the bottom line up front. Anyone who reads your introduction should have a good idea of what your paper found and how it contributes to our knowledge on this topic. There is no minimum page count. 10% of your grade will be based on editing and 90% will be based on adequately addressing the sections outlined below.

First semester students:

The primary goal of your paper should be to justify your research direction and present the data you have collected. Your paper should be composed of roughly four parts:

- An introduction that provides a brief overview of your project and its significance.
- A literature review that summarizes previous literature and highlights your paper's contribution.
- A presentation of your data with some exploratory data analysis. Try to present important features of your data. This should include things like the number of observations and distribution of important variables, but may also include things like correlations between variables, trends across time, assessment of missingness in the data, etc. Make sure to address any potential shortcomings in the data such as potential measurement error or important variables you weren't able to acquire. Basic plots like scatter plots, bar plots, etc. are useful here.
- A discussion of next steps including additional data you wish to collect and a general idea of how you will model the data.

Second semester students:

Your final paper should be a continuation of last semester's research and should include the literature, summary of data, etc. that you have already written. In addition to these sections, you should include:

- A brief methods section that outlines and justifies your modeling approach.
- A results section that includes plots or tables that summarize your results.
- A discussion section that discusses any implications of your research and future research directions.

You should directly address any shortcomings in your analysis such as potential sources of endogeneity, measurement error, lack of data, etc. This should be discussed in either the methods or discussion section as appropriate for your paper.

Github

Push any code used for your analysis to either the same GitHub repository you used for assignments in this course or to a new repository. Link to the github in repository in a footnote on the first page of your paper.