Instructions for Writing a Research Proposal

Another major requirement for the students is to develop a research proposal in an area that is related to one or more topics represented by the presented literature. However, they will not be required to complete the research or carry out any substantial data analysis. The goal is to help the students understand the key elements of a successful design and implementation of a scientific research proposal.

Midterm Exam (10%)

The student will develop his/her research proposal and submit a written summary that focuses on the study design, including:

1. What question are you going to address in your research?

2. What data will you (hypothetically) collect?

3. What methods will you use to analyze the hypothetical data? (brief)

4. What kind of results will you get from such data analysis? (brief)

5. How would you interpret the results? (brief)

1. How will you validate your interpretations? (brief)

Final Exam (40%)

The students will continue to develop his/her research proposal and present in-class (20%) followed by submission of a written document (20%) that addresses the following questions:

1. What is the significance of your research?
2. Does this address an important question?

3. Do you have a solid research design? (elaborate)

4. What kind of results will you get? (elaborate)

5. Will the results convincingly support your hypothesis? How will you validate your conclusions? (elaborate)

6. What kind of impact will your research have in the community?

Notes: 1. The Final paper can be built upon the mid-term paper with the added details. 2. Please use Figures/Tables to illustrate potential results from your hypothetical analyses.