**Research report (40% of grade)**

*Format*

The research report is an intermediate product at the end of the first semester and has one of two formats (whatever fits the student’s project and approach best, this is the choice of the student):

* It is written as a (mini) thesis, with a short introduction, methods section, some results (i.e., preliminary analyses, or pilot simulations), and a discussion of results. The length of the research report should be maximally 2500 words of text (without references list and/or tables and figures). Please do not include appendices, and no more than 4 tables/figures. Table and Figure captions do not count towards the word limit. An abstract may be included, but is not necessary.
* It is the first ‘half’ of the thesis, i.e., there are no results included yet, but the report contains a full introduction including a literature review and a methods section that contains details about the data, instruments and/or statistical procedures. There is no (absolute) word limit but the length of the report should comply with recommendations/expectations of the proposed journal. Note that most journals have word limits or rather strong opinions on (too) lengthy manuscripts.

*Grading*

The grade will reflect the clarity of writing (clear and correct formulations, a logical structure of sections and of paragraphs within sections, no typos or errors in grammar), and the conciseness in presentation of tables, figures, and formulas (if any), that is, a nice looking and consistent lay-out of the report. We will also judge the logic of your research report. For example, does your summary of key questions follow from your discussion of the literature? Or do your conclusions follow from the results you have shown?

The research report should be sent (by email) to:

- Your Research Seminar mentor

- Your thesis supervisor(s)

- The coordinator of the course “Research Seminar” (email: A.G.J.vandeSchoot@uu.nl)

- The coordinator of the course “Preparation Master’s thesis” (email: [m.moerbeek@uu.nl](mailto:m.moerbeek@uu.nl))

Note that y*our thesis supervisor will also take the report into account when proposing a grade for the course “Preparation for master’s thesis”. However, in that course the focus is much more on content, amount of work done, and independency, i.e., it is not solely based on the research report.*

*The grading form used is provided on BB. Note that grading this type of work/skills/performance is no exact science. We cannot always link each “error” or “deficiency” to an exact amount of credits lost. Nevertheless, we aim for as much transparency as possible. More importantly, we hope to help you improve your work with the written feedback.*