Final Project – Poster Presentation
December 5-7 in Class

Your final project will represent the culmination of your research and will take the form of a poster, which you will present in class. After completing your three checkpoint assignments, you will extend your empirical analyses to include a multivariate regression analysis and summarize the other components of your research into different "panels" in the poster. The poster should contain the following components:

1) A short introduction that motivates your topic and tells the reader why it is important to study.
2) A short literature review/theory section (see Checkpoint 1) that describes the previous literature and motivates a testable, falsifiable theory.
3) A clearly stated hypothesis.
4) A methods/data section (see Checkpoints 2 and 3) that explains
    a. How you measured your variables
    b. Basic info about your dataset: unit of analysis, time frame, case selection, etc.
    c. Descriptive statistics that summarize your data
    d. The statistical method you use to test your theory, and a justification for why you are using that method
5) A results section that presents and interprets a bivariate hypothesis test (t-test, chi-squared test, bivariate regression, as appropriate) AND a multivariate linear or logistic regression, as appropriate. The poster should include a regression table, brief discussion of model fit, and brief discussion of statistical and substantive significance of important coefficients in your model.
6) At least one figure, used to either describe some important part of your data or visualization of results.
7) A conclusion that discusses strengths/limitations of your method/design and suggestions for future research.

In addition to your poster, you will also submit your replication dataset and a replication Rscript file, commented in a way that allows me to see what R commands produced the results on your poster. I may replicate the results on your poster to double check what you have done.

How do I make my poster?

The easiest way is to use PowerPoint. That's what I do. Make your poster as a single slide, but change the size of that slide to a poster size (24 inches tall by 36 inches wide). The internet is also full of resources and templates.

We will be presenting our posters on the projector screen, so don't worry about printing. Please save your powerpoint slide as a pdf.

Grading Rubric

Your final project is a big chunk of your overall grade, and your grade for the project itself is comprised of a few chunks:

- **Content (45%):** Did you include all the required elements on your poster? Did you conduct the correct statistical tests, and did you conduct them correctly? Did you interpret your results (p-values, test statistics, predicted values) correctly?
- **Design (20%):** Is your poster clear and easy to read? Does the information flow in an organized way? A few key things to note: do not use paragraphs, except perhaps a brief one for the introduction panel. Use bullet points instead that are straight and to the point. Also, do not put R code into the slides. Use graphs, tables, etc. to convey information wherever possible. Your poster should be a poster and not a series of slides tacked together. Most importantly, the poster should be clear enough that anyone in the class who does not know your research project can look at the poster and understand what you did. KEEP IT CLEAR AND SIMPLE.
- **Presentation (10%):** When you present, I will assess whether you can explain why you've chosen to present the info on your poster, the accuracy of your interpretations of your graphs and tables and tests, and your responsiveness to questions. Poster presentations are not formal, lengthy presentations. Instead, you should have a short summary of your project that you can use to start a conversation with a viewer and then answer their questions from there. In other words, your presentation should only take a couple of minutes (3 or so), followed by engaging conversation in response to questions from the audience.
- **Checkpoint Assignments (15%):** These assignments will be graded pass/fail, but obviously each part is worth 5% of your project grade. If you fail a checkpoint and do not submit a corrected one, your grade will suffer. On the other hand, if your checkpoint needs improvement, you can submit a revised one before the poster is due. That way your final poster reflects your accumulated learning. That said, don't slack off on these checkpoints. I have them spaced out through the semester to keep you on track. Trust me, do them well and by their deadlines and it will make a big difference in terms of quality and stress at the end. I'll give comments on these checkpoints, especially if some revisions or additional thoughts on your part are necessary as you continue through your research.
- **Replication Code (10%):** I will assess whether your code runs without errors, accurately replicates your results on your poster, whether you have commented on your code, and the clarity and organization of the code. Don't include more code than is necessary to replicate your results.

One last point, which is EXTREMELY important. Please note that NOWHERE in this rubric is there a requirement that you find support for your theory. This is a class in political analysis. Your grade is determined your ability to carry out a research project and conduct and interpret quantitative tests appropriately and correctly. If you find support for your hypothesis, great! If not, that is okay! This happens all the time! Your grade <u>will not</u> be adversely affected if you do not find support for your hypothesis.