

## UCT Land course

### Labs for Days 3 and 5 on Week 1 (Conning) and Week 2 (Carter)

1. **Day 3:** Research proposal draft (2-3 pages)
  - a. Form into groups (2-5) by shared broad topic interests
  - b. Brainstorm and develop ideas
  - c. First very rough draft(s) by end of Day 3 Lab
  - d. Group delivers edited research proposal(s)
    - i. by 2pm Day 4, shared with faculty and other students

**(Day 4, only part of lab):** Research proposals matched to response groups

  - e. use some lab time to prepare responses.
2. **Day 5:** Research Group proposal presentations and responses
  - a. Proposal presentations (12 minutes)
  - b. Constructive criticism responses by matched group (6 min)
  - c. Audience questions (5 min)
3. **Week 2**
  - a. *Individual* proposals (and earlier group proposal) due to Michael Carter at end of Day 1 (copy to J. Conning)

(continues on next page)

### **Broad Guidelines**

As described below you will work in groups this week and make a joint presentation, but you will ultimately submit individual proposals.

**Day 3 Proposals** components (2-4 pages):

**Title:**

**Group Members** names:

**Abstract** (less than 300 words):

**Highlight of specific hypotheses to be explored:**

**Data sources and methods:**

**Main challenges expected:** (e.g. selection issues, how research design might address concerns)

**Contribution:** to academic literature and policy

**Bibliography** (key references, can be listed on additional pages)

**Additional notes:**

- We will discuss sample research topics in class and lab.
- It is OK to focus on a topic that you are already working on but if you do try to improve or reformulate it a bit (and don't just send a lengthy existing document ---try to boil it down to fit the format). If sticking to a topic already your dissertation topic maybe try to include a method that you have not used before but that you might want to work on in future research (e.g. a research discontinuity design or other econometric method you have not used before, use of remote sensing or other geospatial data, a field experiment design, etc).
- On data sources and methods: you do not have to limit yourself to existing sources. You could frame your proposal as a research design to collect new data or describe the ideal dataset for your study question. If you plan to use existing sources, try to be clear about what you can and cannot identify or infer from these sources.
- Although you will select into groups to brainstorm on shared research interests and the group will present together on Day 5 (perhaps selecting one of your individual proposals for highlight, or by using a common research frame that can be applied to different regions), you should be developing your own *individual draft proposals* and that is what you will submit in the last step above. Michael Carter will then help you refine those proposals.