

# MA Research Commitment

Assignment 5, MA Thesis Full Draft

*Joshua Gary Mausolf and Nora Nickels*

**Due 11:59 PM CDT on March 1st**

## Requirements:

The MA thesis draft should be a complete version of your final thesis, which you will have a chance to improve upon before submitting the polished first draft to your thesis adviser and preceptor on April 1st.

For this assignment, we want to stress that the rough draft should be the best work you can produce on your own. That draft should be complete (40-45 pages), having all the requisite elements you might expect in a journal article, including a title page, abstract, introduction, literature review that frames your research question, a detailed description of your data sources and methods, a careful analysis of that data, a discussion that summarizes the results and explains their contribution to the broader literature on the topic, a list of references cited, and if needed, an appendix with supplementary tables and figures besides those in the main paper.

## Grading:

### Length

- 40-45 pages doubled spaced, 12 pt font, 1 or 1.25 inch margins
- *Title page, references, and appendices are not included toward the length requirement*

### Required Sections (in the following order)

- Title Page
- Abstract (either on a separate page or the first page of the thesis)
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Data and Methods
- Results/Analysis
- Discussion
- References
- Appendices (if any)

## Notes

For the assignment, you may use either footnotes or end notes at your discretion. Include an additional section of works cited. You should follow an accepted and consistent in-text citations and bibliography style such as ASA, APA, or Chicago.

Additional guidelines and descriptions for the individual required sections such as the literature review can be found in past assignments for the MA Research Commitment. If you want to look for additional inspiration, examine the formatting and framing of research articles at flagship journals in your social science discipline, for example the American Sociological Review, American Economic Review, American Political Science Review, or Psychological Review.

## **Submission**

The assignment should be submitted in PDF format, attached to an email. The email should be sent to both Joshua Mausolf (jmausolf@uchicago.edu) and Nora Nickels (nnickels@uchicago.edu). This assignment is due by 11:59 PM, Central Time on March 1st.

**Late submissions will be deducted one letter grade for every day they are late.**