

# Bush 631: Final project

## Data driven policymaking

### Instructions

This document provides you with instructions regarding the final project of this class.

In the project, you will explore a topic or a policy of interest in the context of international affairs. The main objective is to study the relevant topic with an interesting research question(s), present explanations for the events/behavior of the main actors, and derive implications for policymaking. Quantitative methods are a central part of the project. The data analysis will be integrated in a way that supports your study of the topic and the proposed implications/recommendations for policy. You may use the empirical results in any appropriate section including evidence for existing conditions, causes for certain outcomes or support for recommendations.

For the final project, you will prepare three products:

1. Research proposal
2. Data report
3. Visual presentation of the study and an executive summary.

Tips for writing all your documents:

- Follow the ‘best practices of writing’ - resources available at the Bush school writing website ([Link](#)).
- Use the **Bottom-Line-Up-Front (BLUF)** guidelines for every section of your documents.
- ‘Break-down’ your arguments into multiple paragraphs.
- You can use some of the suggestions from this guide: *Project proposal memo* ([Link](#))
- Follow consistent rules for citations and providing credit for any content that is not originally yours (add cites at the end of your document).

## **Research proposal (due 03.31.2023)**

This document presents your plan for the research. It must answer the following questions:

1. What is the topic / policy area that you study?
2. Why is this topic / policy important and interesting? (the “so what?”).
3. What does the existing state of knowledge of this issue / topic? (the primary points in the literature)
4. How do you intend to explore the issue?
5. What quantitative data do you intend to collect?
6. The general outline of the visual presentation product.

Few more pointers:

- The research proposal is written as a single document in which you describe your plan to study the issue.
- Document length is 1-2 pages max.