Final Project

COMM 7370 | Spring 2023 | Due: see syllabus

1 Overview

What you have learned throughout the course of the semester will culminate in final project that consists of a research proposal, a preregistered study on OSF, a free and open platform that supports open science, and an in-class presentation. You will explicate a research problem, conduct a literature review, formulate hypotheses, devise the methodology and analytic strategy, and preregister your study. More detailed instructions will be provided as the semester progresses.

Your project should include:

- An outline of the research problem and its relevance for a specific discipline and society.

- A literature review to support your theoretical framework and translates the problem into research questions and testable hypotheses.

- A discussion of the measures used in your project and justification for measures and analytic procedures.

You will present a project prospectus in class. Your prospectus should include all the components of your final project or a plan for accomplishing each component. In addition to presenting your proposal, you will serve as a reviewer for your peers.

1.1 Requirements

All proposals should follow APA style guidelines. Your proposal should contain:(1) a cover page, (2) a single-page project summary, (3) an introduction to the problem and its importance and contribution to the discipline and society, (4) a thorough review of literature relevant to your concepts of interest, (5) hypotheses and/or research questions, (6) methodology detailing measures and analytic approach, (7) a link to your preregistration, (8) appropriate tables and figures, and (9) references.

Your final proposal should not exceed 8,000 words (not inclusive of cover page, project summary, tables, figures, or references).

2 Elements of the Final Project

2.1 Proposal Prospectus

This is a 1,500 - 2,000 word document that outlines your project topic, the research problem, and its disciplinary and societal relevance and importance. The prospectus should also clearly identify (with citations and references) concepts of interest and their conceptual definitions. In addition to the 1,500 - 2,000 words, there should be an outline of your proposal included in the prospectus.

Submit this as a PDF document on Canvas.

2.2 Penultimate Proposal

This is the penultimate version of your project proposal. If you were submitting to proposal to a funding agency, you should be comfortable submitting this version of it. The requirements of the final proposal apply (see Section 1.1).

Submit this as a PDF document on Canvas.

2.3 Final Proposal and Response

I will offer feedback on the penultimate version of your proposal. You can choose whether to incorporate the feedback offered. However, you will prepare a response to my comments that accompany the final version of your proposal.

This is similar to responding to reviewer comments during the publication process. We will review the format of a response to reviewers in class. In addition to a response, you will revise and resubmit your proposal, indicating where revisions have been made.

Submit this as a single PDF document on Canvas.

2.4 Proposal Presentation

You will present your proposal during class at the end of the semester (see syllabus for specific date). Each student will have 20 minutes to present their work followed by 10 minutes of Q&A and discussion.

Prior to the presentations, I will share the proposals with the class. Please come prepared to ask questions and discuss your peers' proposals.

2.5 Project Pre-registration

In addition to a proposal and presentation, you will preregister your study on OSF. Prof. Ben Lyons has graciously agreed to join us on March 22, 2023, to discuss pre-registration.

3 Miscellanea

I am always open to helping you with your proposal or any other aspect of this course. Please email me early if you get stuck or need help. That said, I cannot review full drafts of proposals before the deadline. However, I am willing to discuss your outline (included in the prospectus).

Remember that the more work you put in, the better feedback you will receive. There are writing/data analysis workshops built into our schedule at the end of the semester. This is protected time for you to write. In order to make these productive, please come prepared. This will look different for each student but, in general, the more work you can accomplish early, the better.