final project

[version: Thursday 8th December, 2016   15:51]

1. use tools from the class to produce a paper

2. no longer than 5 pages single–spaced (excluding appendices, where you may insert additional text and statistical output); if there is any specific reason for longer paper (eg you have been working on this for long time), let me know!

3. paper may be either your own research (local or general), or critique of others' research or both

4. contact me early to discuss to see if you are on the right track

Some loose elaboration below

civic engagement/local data analysis – This option is for those students interested in conducting applied research; it focuses on the student's ability to conceptualize, organize, and analyze data. Students will design and execute a "real world" research project based on data. Paper should include:

- Statement of the problem or questions that will be address through the specific data collection methods and analysis.

- A summary presentation of the data source (quantitative or qualitative) collection and analysis, including tables and graphs to illustrate key findings.

- Conclusion and/or recommendations based on the analysis that will be given to the client/institution.

academic data analysis – This option is for those students who have an interest in theory and research designed and are interested in pursuing advanced study in public administration or another field. Students may submit a research proposal or conduct a limited data analysis project utilizing data. The proposal/paper will be written as a formal research project that includes:

- A statement of the research problem based on relevant literature review

- A description of the methods for data analysis, and

- If data is collected and analyzed, a results and conclusion section based on the collected and analyzed data.

critique existing research – The purpose of this option is to demonstrate proficiency in (1) understanding professional journal articles and (2) using statistics as a written language of communication. The term paper is a critique of al least several research articles that are related and study some topic you are interested in. Of course, can also critique books, reports, white papers, etc

- have to use some concepts from the class, eg INUS, validities, research design

- that is, it cannot just be a summary or lit rev

- it must focus on research methods!