

Final Assignment Guidelines

Overview

Your final assignment is worth a **maximum of 50 points**. The goal is to demonstrate your ability to motivate, correctly apply, and critically evaluate automated text analysis methods.

Final Paper Requirements

- **Topic:** Apply one or several automated text analysis methods to a topic related to your Master's thesis *or* a topic of your own choice.
- **Research question:** Your work may focus on either
 - a **substantive research question** (e.g., political communication, social media, public opinion, etc.), *or*
 - a **methodological research question** (e.g., comparing topic models, testing preprocessing choices, evaluating dictionary methods).
- **Content:** Your submission should include the **Methods**, **Results**, and **Discussion** sections of a (pseudo-)academic paper.
- **Length:** **Approx. 6–8 pages** of text (excluding references, figures, and appendices).
- **Code:** Provide fully **commented code**. Accepted languages: **Python**, **R**, or **Julia**.
- **Files:** Submit a **PDF** of the paper and attach all source code files or notebooks.

Evaluation Criteria (50 points total)

1. Consistency (15 points)

Your analysis should be conceptually coherent. You will be evaluated on:

- A clear motivation and statement of objectives.
- Alignment between your motivation, chosen method(s), and reported results.
- Interpretations that directly follow from your analytic approach.

2. Correct Choice of Method and Code (20 points)

Assessment of technical and methodological soundness:

- Appropriate method selection for your research question and data.
- Fully runnable code in Python, R, or Julia.
- Code is clearly commented and structured.
- Correct application of the method (e.g., preprocessing, model specification, diagnostics when relevant).

3. Critical Reflection (15 points)

Demonstrate methodological awareness and critical thinking:

- Reflect on major design decisions (e.g., preprocessing, feature selection, parameter choices).
- Discuss limitations of the chosen method(s) and potential alternative approaches.
- Interpret your findings with appropriate caution.

Submission Details

- Submit the assignment as a **PDF**.
- Include all code (and data) as separate attached files.
- Figures, tables, and references do not count toward the page limit.

Deadline

TBA

Academic Integrity

All work must be your own. External sources, models, or datasets must be properly cited.