

Universidade de São Paulo
Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas
Departamento de Ciência Política

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Final Paper Assignment

This final paper assignment is intended to help you to master technical writing and quantitative analysis for the types of problems studied in the course, as well as the ability to replicate and robustly test results produced in the literature.

The final paper your group will hand in will consist of three graded components: 1) a 20-25 page final paper; 2) the data set employed to undertake your analysis; and 3) a do-file which replicates all figures and tables reported in your paper. Each group must turn in their paper in printed form. Each group must also send their paper, do file and data set to Professor Barberia. Your do files will be tested with the dataset you send in the same e-mail message.

To complete the assignment, please distribute the workload for the paper among the students in each group. The same grade will be assigned to all members in each group.

Below is a brief description of some of the components that your paper should include:

I. Introduction

What is the motivation for this paper? Why does this research question matter? What is the theorized relationship between the dependent variables and the explanatory variables? What problems do you see with the arguments and tests undertaken by Samuels (2000) from a theoretical point of view? Are there earlier or more recent papers that discuss and report alternative theoretical or empirical findings?

II. Replication

To complete this assignment, you must first replicate the summary statistics and multiple regression results in the tables reported in Samuels (2000). Please be sure to state at least three (3) testable hypotheses from the original paper and discuss the findings in detail. Are there findings in the paper that run counter to the main argument of the authors?

III. Post-Estimation Analysis

Are Samuels's findings consistent to alternative model specifications? Are there differences between the results in terms of statistical vs. substantive significance? Does heteroscedasticity or multicollinearity seem to be a problem? Is omitted variable bias likely to be influencing the results? If so, which variables might we want to include? Are the interactions specified and interpreted correctly?

IV. Conclusion and Implications

What do we now know that we did not know before?

Final Comments on the Assignment

Unlike problem sets, this assignment requires you to be more thorough in your analysis. Please do not strictly limit yourself to the questions outlined in each section. These are the brief and minimum questions that should be explored in each section. They are provided to be a guide for the write-up, but you can add others or focus more thoroughly on one or more of the questions raised in this outline.

Please also remember to be creative in writing up your results. There might be some graphs and figures that are important for communicating your findings.

References

Samuels, David J. "The Gubernatorial Coattails Effect: Federalism and Congressional Elections in Brazil." *Journal of Politics* 62, no. 1 (2000): 240-53.