

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 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.

In structuring your paper, please do not exceed 20 pages, double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12pt, including figures, tables, and references. This report should be structured as a short research note, not a full-length article.

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.

For a helpful discussion of how to structure your replication, please see:

King, Gary. 2006. "Publication, Publication," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. XXXIX, No. 1, 119-125.

For a helpful discussion on the causal interpretation of estimated associations in regression models, please see:

Keele, L., Stevenson, R., & Elwert, F. (n.d.). "The Causal Interpretation of Estimated Associations in Regression Models." *Political Science Research and Methods*, 1-13.
doi:10.1017/psrm.2019.31.

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

I. Introduction

What is the motivation for the original paper you are trying to replicate? Why does this research question matter?

II. Causal Interpretations of Estimated Associations

What is the theorized relationship between the dependent variables and the key explanatory variable? Please illustrate the author's argument. Does the author's argument elaborate on direct, indirect and total effects?

III. Replication

Please be sure to state at least three (3) testable hypotheses from the original paper and discuss if you were able to replicate the results. To what extent were you able to replicate each of the author's results? If the conclusions of the original article are incorrect, show why.

IV. Post-Estimation Analysis (*Graduate Students Only*)

- a) Without changing any assumptions in the original paper, explore whether there differences between the results in terms of statistical vs. substantive significance.
- b) With only one completely justifiable methodological change, explore whether there differences between the original results and your new results. Make sure to justify your methodological change and its relevancy.
- c) With further completely justifiable methodological changes (if you feel these are necessary), explore whether there differences between the original results and your new results. Make sure to justify your methodological changes and their relevancy.

V. 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.