

Proposal Guidelines

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Fall 2015

Due: 1:00 am Wednesday, 10/28

Most of you have identified a paper or set of papers (which we will call your *core paper(s)*) on which you will base your project. Your **first step is to read the paper**.

Your next step should be to generate the proposal. Please submit **one proposal per group** via email to me by the due date.

The Proposal Document

Your project proposal should be 1-2 pages, typeset in L^AT_EX, with 10pt font and margins set by `\usepackage{fullpage}` (a template has been provided for you on the class website). Think of the proposal as a more detailed version of reaction notes for your core paper(s) with some additional sections. In particular, your proposal should contain the following parts:

Key research problem This section identifies the core topic of your project. The research problem could simply be a restated version of the key research question answered by your core paper(s) or a novel problem formulation based on your core paper(s). Also identify if your project is *theoretical*, *simulation-based*, *behavioral economics-based* or a combination of these.

Key contributions In the previous section, you specified your core research problem. In this section, you will situate the research problem in the larger research context. In particular, you will identify the following.

Significance You should state why the problem is significant to the field at large. Do not worry about related works yet. Your goal is to give the reader a sense of what is driving your curiosity in exploring this topic in general, and your problem in particular.

Replication What were the key results that the authors claim to have achieved in your core paper(s) and which of these are of particular interest to you? Which are the parts of the paper that you plan to replicate? Also include a basic timeline here with an itemized list of intended tasks. This will necessarily be a rough timeline. I have provided an example of the long-term timeline in Table 1.

Extensions (optional) Have you already identified extensions that you would want to work on? If so, list these out in detail (include what the extension is, why it would be useful to do, and how you plan to go about doing it). It is perfectly fine to hypothesize here a bit, and include a couple of possible directions.

Next Steps Throughout the time you work on the project, you will identify *weekly goals*. Appropriate goal-setting is a key part of successfully completing any project. In this section, you will identify the next steps you need to take to make progress on your project and a deadline by which you plan to complete them. You should plan out, in detail, the next 2-3 weeks after the proposal is due. Use **Mondays 1:00am** deadlines as usual. We will use lab times to check in on progress towards your self-prescribed goals and deadlines. An example set of immediate goals is listed in Table 2.

Timeline	Task
Weeks 8-9	Background: Detailed plan in Table 2.
Weeks 10-11	Implementation: Implement experiment and analyze data. Submit progress report.
Weeks 12-14	Write-up: Related work review, paper writing and presentation prep.

Table 1: Long-term Plan

Timeline	Task
Nov 9	Read paper and work out specific example for Theorem X.
Nov 16	Understand background and identify data sources for experiment setup in Section Y. Work out details of how to set up a behavioral economics experiment and recruit subjects.

Table 2: Plan for the next two weeks

We will use lab time on Monday, 10/26 to check in on the progress of your project proposal.

Grading

As listed on the class website, you will work on the project in stages. As you complete each stage of the project, detailed specifications for the next stage will be provided to you. These components contribute to your *final grade* in the proportions listed in Table 3. Good luck and don't forget to have fun!

	Weight	Due Date
Proposal	10%	1:00 am Wednesday, 10/28
Progress Report	10%	1:00am Monday, 11/16
Presentation	10%	<i>In Class:</i> 11/30 – 12/4
Final Paper	15%	1:00 am Thursday, 12/10

Table 3: Project Grade Distribution