

Course Project Overview

Purpose The main purpose for the course project is for you to demonstrate your understanding of course material by carrying out an independent study that includes choosing a question, gathering data, performing statistical analysis (descriptive and inferential), reaching conclusions, and writing a technical report.

Outline You will work on your course project in the following steps throughout the semester (with tentative deadlines):

- Project topic proposal (Friday, October 10)
- Study design proposal (Friday, October 24)
- Pilot study (Friday, November 7)
- Full data set and descriptive statistics (Friday, December 5)
- Final report (Friday, December 19)

The preliminary steps are designed to get you thinking about your project and to prompt an on-going conversation between you and me. For each step, I'll give you more complete details well in advance of the deadline.

Evaluation and score In evaluating your course project work, the areas I will consider include the following (with a rough weight given for each):

- the soundness of your study design and implementation (10%)
- the innovativeness of your study design (5%)
- the relevance and accuracy of your statistical analysis (25%)
- the reasonableness of your judgments and conclusions in relation to your statistical analysis (25%)
- the precision, accuracy, completeness, coherence, and conciseness of your language (15%)
- the understanding and insight you display (10%)
- mechanics such as grammar, spelling, punctuation, figures, tables, neatness (5%)

In addition, 5% of the project score total will be for preliminary assignments (topic proposal, study design proposal, pilot study report, and descriptive statistics report).