Stat. & C.S. 295: Final Paper Instructions

Fall 2016 – University of Vermont

Instructor:	Samuel V. Scarpino	**Time:**	T/R 13:15 – 14:30
Email:	svscarpi@uvm.edu	**Location:**	Lafayette L307
Office:	Farrell Hall 206	**Office Hours:**	W 10:00 – 12:00

Course Pages: http://scarpino.github.io/teaching/ and Blackboard.

Instructions:
The goal of the research paper is to demonstrate your mastery of the skills we have learned in class and your ability to communicate your work through figures and text. Each of you must work on a separate paper, but you are allowed–and encouraged!–to discuss your work and receive feedback from others. Your grade for this paper will be based on: an initial proposal (20%), a first draft (30%), and the final version (50%). My hope is that many of your papers will be submitted to a scholarly journal.

1. **Formatting:** I will provide a LaTeX template, but you are free to use any environment. Each assignment must be turned in as a PDF on blackboard. I will provide a maximum document length, but there are no minimum length requirements. A page is defined as follows: minimum font size = 11 for a normal font like Times New Roman or Ariel (you can use whatever font you want), minimum line spacing is 1.25, and the minimum margin widths are one inch. References do not count towards the page limit, but inline citations do.

2. **Proposal:** The maximum length is 1 page. Please provide the following: 1.) research question; 2.) one - two paragraphs of background on the question. This should be written so that I can understand the content and should include a few citations to key pieces of literature.; 3.) A list of data sets you plan to use.; and 4.) A single figure–and figure legend–from one of your listed data sets.

3. **First draft:** The maximum length is 10 pages (including figures/tables, but not the references section). The paper should include an introduction, results, methods, and discussion section and at least 2 figures. Your grade will be based on: 25% clearly communicating the background information and discussing the results; 25% clearly explaining the methods; 25% appropriately justifying the methods; 25% clearly communicating the results in both the text (50% of the 25%) and figures (50% of the 25%).

4. **Final draft:** Same length as the first draft, but you should also provide a point-by-point response to the comments you received on your *first draft*. Your grade will be based on: 50% thoughtful response to each comment; 12.5% clearly communicating the background information and discussing the results; 12.5% clearly explaining the methods; 12.5% appropriately justifying the methods; 12.5% clearly communicating the results in both the text (50% of the 12.5%) and figures (50% of the 12.5%).

5. **Presentation:** Each of you will give a 12 minute presentation, with 3 minutes for questions.

Grading Breakdown: