PR2000 – Assignment 2
2019-2020

Research Report of a Survey Experiment

During the Spring term we are going to discuss how to design, implement and analyse the results from a survey experiment. The assessment for this part of the course involves writing a brief research report (**2,000 words**) describing this work (details below). This word count **does NOT include the cover page, bibliography, or appendix.**

The assignment must be submitted on Turnitin by **12pm (noon) on Wednesday 25 March 2020 in Week 27.** This assignment will be worth 25% of the final mark. It is important that you attend every class during this term as we will be going over each section of the research report in the seminars.

Assessment:

We will use the step marking scheme consistent with your other modules. For more info on the marking scheme, please see the UG cover sheet, the UG Handbook, or the PR2000 course outline. Please refer to the Undergraduate Student Handbook for departmental policy on essay submission, rules for word count, late penalties, and plagiarism.

This is not a normal essay, and it will not be assessed as one. The mark for the assignment will be based on your performance in *five distinct sections.* Those sections are: 1) Intro and theoretical expectations, 2) Experimental design, 3) Sample, 4) Analysis, and 5) Reflection. The point is that you might do really well on one section and less well on another, and you don't have to worry about one bad section ruining your whole mark.

Below, you will find additional information about each of the five sections. For each section, you'll see examples of information to include in your answers. Ideally, your answers would very concisely and directly address as much of this information as possible. Of course, we know that you have a word limit to deal with, and you cannot write about EVERYTHING. You will be assessed on the amount of (correct) detail you can provide within the confines of the word limit.

Organising your report:

The research report must consist of the following elements. Please note that the word counts provided are *general guidelines* and not strict limits. We encourage you to write each section separately with subheadings, rather than organising the report as a single essay.

- **UG cover sheet (not included in word count)**
  Please use the UG cover sheet, which can be found on the PR2000 Moodle page.

- **Introduction and theoretical expectations (approx. 500 words)**
  Briefly describe your research question, and provide a brief justification for why it is important to study. Then draw on existing literature and explain the hypotheses you seek to test. Be sure to include multiple citations for each hypothesis and reference them in your bibliography.

- **Experimental design (approx. 500 words)**
  Describe the experimental setup. This section should include: an overview of the experiment, how many treatments you have (why?), what is your control condition (why?), how did you measure your dependent variable(s) (why?), how these treatments address your hypotheses, and the limitations of the design.

- **Sample (approx. 200 words)**
  Describe your sample. Who is your target population? Who is included in your sample? What is your sampling mechanism? How many observations do you have? What are the limitations of your sample?

- **Analysis (approx. 400 words)**
  Analyse your responses. Do your data provide support for your theoretical expectations? Do you believe that your responses reflect the "truth" or is there error? Can you identify sources of bias or imprecision?

- **Reflection (approx. 400 words)**
  Reflect on your experience. What went well? What did not go so well? Is there anything you would do different next time?

- **Bibliography (not included in word count)**
  Include a full bibliography of all works cited. Please follow the departmental style guide: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/politicsandir/documents/pdf/pirreferencingguide.pdf

- **Appendix (not included in word count)**
  You MUST attach:
    - Your questionnaire (including your experimental conditions)
    - All R code necessary to replicate your analysis