

Thesis Tasks “Memo” 2

Second tasks, due: Friday, February 23 (via email)

1. Revise or complete your one-page double-spaced draft of the introduction to your thesis in which you state the research question, briefly describe the data or data set you will be using and the outcome of interest, and briefly describe how you will do the research.
2. Expand your literature review to 20 scholarly publications on the outcome, process or relationship you are addressing in your thesis. These should all be empirical studies.
3. Produce a 4-5 page draft of your Background and Hypotheses section.
 - a. Start by looking over a published article or two that emerged from your first memo to see how they structured a literature review.
 - b. Group your growing list of scholarly publications by their basic arguments, and/or core findings, and use those grouping to develop a first set of categories as a map of the literature relevant to your study. You should have at least two or three groupings, and you can and should use the background sections of published work as a guide. Note that publications can (sometimes) fall into more than one category.
 - c. Extract from your literature review three to six hypotheses about your outcome of interest. Be sure to use a standard format for doing this and discuss for each whether and how you might measure the independent variables using your data.
4. Complete or revise the descriptive analysis of your dependent variable (s). Add a descriptive analysis of your main independent variables. Run bivariate analyses of the main independent and dependent variables (cross-tabs and chi-squares) as well as a correlation matrix of all of your variables to check for multicollinearity. Run a multiple linear or logistic regression model or two using four or five independent variables. Write up your results in 3 to 5 paragraphs.