Thesis Boot Camp
Data 793

Thesis Tasks Memo 3

1. A revised two-page double-spaced draft of the introduction and background to your thesis in which you state the research question and dependent variable, briefly describe the dataset you will be using, and briefly state the logic or type of analysis you will pursue.

2. A two-page first draft of your theory section, stating the basic arguments about your outcome that you propose or plan to test, and including up to 4-5 hypotheses, *written in the standard format*. These hypotheses should reflect your basic research question. You should provide some reasons why you or previous work would expect those relationships to hold up (or not); you can structure those issues as a debate rather than take side. And the hypotheses should flow from the literature, so include under each hypothesis citations to prior published work from which you draw in formulating your hypotheses.

3. Descriptive statistics for your dependent variable. (See website for details on format.)

4. Properly formatted table(s) of descriptive statistics for your independent variables. (See attached pages for details on format.)

5. If your dependent variable(s) are binary (e.g., had flu shot this year) or categorical (e.g., Political Party affiliation), two-way crosstabs of independent variables by dependent variables. (Continuous independent variables can be collapsed as needed, e.g., Education levels of 1 to 20 years can be presented as: < HS, HS Grad, Some Coll, 2-year degree, 4-year degree, Graduate Degree.)

6. One or two pages of regression models representing first or second tries on your analysis, with a one page interpretation of your results.

7. A bibliography of at least 20 scholarly publications on the outcome, process or relationship you are addressing in your thesis. These should be empirical studies, and should include any studies that use your data set and/or analyze the same or similar dependent variable.