

EPHE 357 Research Project

The major assessment component of this course will be a research project that you take from start to finish. Specifically, you will design a research study, you will complete the relevant review of literature, you will run the study, you will analyze the data, and you will write up a research summary report. The in class practical classes (Wednesday's) will be used to guide you through this process although you will need to complete most of the work on your own time.

You have the option to complete your research project individually or in a group of two or three. The advantage to working on your own is you will not be required to write the final exam. The advantage to working in a group should be obvious – division of labour.

Your research project must be unique. What I mean is your research question and hypotheses must be unique and not overlap at all with other students' projects. You will be required to "register" your project with me to ensure that your project is unique. This will come on a first come, first serve basis and I will post project titles and relevant information to a linked webpage so you can see what other people are doing.

Assessment (25 or 50% of your course grade, out of 100 points)

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| 1. Submission and Approval of Research Question and Hypotheses | 10 points |
| 2. Outline of Literature Review | 10 points |
| 3. Completed Literature Review (Introduction of Your Paper) | 10 points |
| 4. Submission and Approval of Methods (Methods of Your Paper) | 10 points |
| 5. Submission and Approval of Results (Results of Your Paper) | 10 points |
| 6. Final Research Report | 50 points |

Detailed Overview of Components

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| 1. Submission and Approval of Research Question and Hypotheses | 10 points |
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You will need to complete the attached form. Note, there is no due date for this assignment specifically, but I would strongly advise you to hand it in and get it approved BEFORE you begin your research project.

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| 2. Outline of Literature Review | 10 points |
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Before you begin writing your literature review (see below) you need to provide an outline of the papers you will be summarizing and reviewing. The general organization of an introduction is as follows:

- i. The “Big” Picture (1 or 2 paragraphs). Here you frame your research in the “big” picture – or how it fits into the overall scheme of things. Your actual study and hypotheses will be quite focused, but they should still speak to a larger issue. Typically, people cite a few papers here.
- ii. Scoping Review (2 to “n” paragraphs). Here is where you review all of the pertinent studies to support what you are doing. Note, this may be divided into sections. For instance, if we stick with the Mars bar study example, you would need to discuss diets in general, why sugar is bad for you, etc. This is the crucial part of the review – you must assume the reader knows nothing so you have to lead them from nothing to understanding why you made the hypotheses you have made. This is where the bulk of your citations will be. A lot of beginning writers organize this section chronologically, but it is far better to organize by themes. Note – TRANSITION! The last sentence of a paragraph has to set up the first sentence of the next paragraph. The sole exception is if you have section headings to differentiate separate ideas.
- iii. The Last Paragraph (1 paragraph). This is where you bring it all together – introduce what you are doing and then outline your hypotheses with predictions.

This is an outline, do not write the thing now. Develop an outline of what you think all of your paragraphs will be about and then find the papers to support them. For this course, you must review at least 20 papers in your introduction to frame your study.

3. Completed Literature Review

10 points

This is basically the introduction to your paper. All you need to do here is take your template and fill it in. When summarizing papers, do not go into too much detail – answer the key questions: a) What did they do? b) How did they do it? c) What were the results, and d) What does it mean. The key mistake writers make here is flow. It all needs to flow from one idea to another. Typically in a paragraph one study is reviewed in detail and then other supporting studies come after with a shorter summary. Do not forget transition between paragraphs!

There is no guide sheet for this. Just hand in your completed Introduction with a cover page and an APA formatted reference list.

4. Submission and Approval of Methods (Methods of Your Paper)

10 points

The methods section of a paper clearly needs to explain what was done and how. The gold standard is someone should be able to replicate your study from your methods section without asking you any questions. Typically, a Methods section has sections for Participants, Procedures, and Data Analysis. This is wholly dependent on the type of study being done, so it is hard to outline this in more detail. I will support you by discussing this with you in person, but the best thing to do is find a paper similar to what you proposed to do and follow their lead.

There is no guide sheet for this. Just hand in your completed Methods with a cover page.

5. Submission and Approval of Results (Results of Your Paper)

10 points

The results section is fairly obvious – this is where the results go. These differ considerably depending on whether or not you are doing qualitative or quantitative research. We will develop

the “how to do” Methods sections for these research styles as we get to the relevant course section. One note, graphics are crucial. Take time to make great looking tables and/or figures. It sells a paper.

There is no guide sheet for this. Just hand in your completed Results with a cover page.

6. Final Research Report

50 points

The final research report is your study written up in journal style format ready for “submission”. So, in addition to the sections you need to add:

- i. Title Page (follow APA guidelines).
- ii. Abstract. A 200 word summary of your study. You basically have two sentences to introduce the idea, then your specific study in one sentence. Two sentences for your methods. Your results in a sentence or two. Then finally, a one or two sentence “what does it mean”.
- iii. Discussion. Your discussion should be about six paragraph on average. The first paragraph(s) summarize the results. The middle paragraphs explain the “why”. Typically you end with a paragraph on limitations and future direction. And then a small section with the subtitle of “Conclusions” which summarizes the whole thing.
- iv. Tables and Figures (with captions). Note, these do not get inserted into the document body. In the document you just write “See Figure 1” or “See Table 1”. Before these you need a page that has the captions for each Table or Figure.
- v. Reference List

There is a sample paper provided to show you what the final version should look like.

EPHE 357 Research Project
Outline of Literature Review

Group Members:

Date of Submission:

Grade (out of 10):

Approved:

1. The Big Picture. How will you frame your project. One thing that works for me is develop your first sentence now. This should reflect your research question. What papers will you cite here.

2. Scoping Review. There is no magic template for this, but most papers have between 6 and 10 paragraphs. You lose 1 to the big picture and 1 to the last paragraph so what do those middle paragraphs look like? What is each one about? Are they in an order than makes sense? What papers will you cite here.

3. The Last Paragraph. What is the key sentence that sets up your study? Read a few research papers to see how other people do it. Typically, there are only 1 or 2 key citations here. This is where your hypotheses go.

The assignment is to fully develop this outline and submit that.

EPHE 357 Research Project
Submission and Approval of Research Question and Hypotheses

Group Members:

Date of Submission:

Grade (out of 10):

Approved: