

TERM PROJECT

TOPIC APPROVAL

Select a recent election (within two years of the end of the course) from a State that is neither the United States nor your “home” State. As you will be analyzing this election, you will want to focus on one that has sufficient data available. As you would expect, you should read the entire project before selecting your State and election. You should also check that your State tends to provide the necessary information on the Internet.

ELECTION BACKGROUND

Understand the background to the election you are studying. This background should include (at least) the following: The State’s recent history, who ran, the main election issues, the electoral system type with its defining characteristics.

ELECTION RESULTS

Understand the results of the election. This should include (at least) who won, domestic and international reactions, differences between the polls and the outcome, claims of fraud / irregularities / violence, and a demographic analysis.

ELECTION TESTING

Analyze the election BOTH for digit fraud and for differential invalidation.

POSTER AND PRESENTATION

Put all of these parts together into an appropriate poster. Present those results in 12–20 minutes. These presentations may take a few class periods to perform. All are officially due on the first day of the presentation period. They will, however, be handed in to me at the end of your specific presentation. The order will be determined by a random number generator (names in alphabetical order by last name) whose seed is selected by a randomly-selected student in the class.

EXAMPLE

A sample poster is provided at the course website. Your presentation should follow the structure of your poster. Furthermore, you should have your poster approved by me before having it printed off. It will save a tree or two.

OPTIONAL RESEARCH EXTENSION

In addition to the poster, you may wish to write a research paper. Of course, the research paper will require additional work and research, but it may be worth the extra effort to have others validate your understanding and your research.

I expect that this research paper will serve as the seed of a publishable article that will be sent off to a journal. Growing this seed would take an additional class (independent research study), be a great extension to this course, and serve as the basis for your Statistics Minor research project.

The following is a suggested structure for that paper (yours may differ from this outline). Again, this paper is not for this course. It is for future research output.

1. Introduction
2. Literature Review of Democracy
 - a. Statistical Test
3. Electoral System (for the State and election)
 - a. Specifics for this election
4. Data/Methods
 - a. Source of data
 - b. Statistical method used (and explained)
5. Results/Discussion
6. Conclusion