FINAL PAPER STRUCTURE TEMPLATE

Your final paper is your culminating work for this course. This structure outline is provided as a guideline to your work. You should include headers for each section of your paper. In addition to the text of the paper, you should include a cover page which includes the paper title, your name, the class name and semester, and the draft number to track changes. You should also include page numbers, starting with the first page of text and not the cover page. If you are confused about the content of a section, you should ask these questions in class and/or refer to other academic papers for examples. You can also refer to the syllabus for format specifications. I have included suggested page lengths for each section but you can adjust these as appropriate for your work.

1. Introduction

Introduce your research question and why it matters. You can motivate it by referencing current events, ethical concerns, or other reasons why people might care. You need to make the reader (me) understand why this is an important question, even if *you* think it is obvious. You **must** include a clear and testable/measurable research hypothesis.

Suggested Length: 2 pages double spaced.

2. Literature Review

This is where you provide a literature review of the research that has been done before. This is primarily a review of academic journal articles, but you can also reference industry or government reports and, as appropriate, news articles. You must include at least 2 to 3 economics journal articles, as this is an economics class.

Suggested Length: 1 -2 pages double spaced.

3. Specific Background

If your research topic includes some specific background you think would be helpful to the reader, include it here, e.g. an explanation of the collective bargaining agreement you are studying, a history of immigration policy in the United States, changes in the occupation, etc. You can be as detailed as necessary here; this is a great place to get into the weeds of an issue or policy, or explain something that may be confusing to an outsider.

Suggested Length: 1 -2 pages double spaced.

4. Data

The Data section is where you list and explain the variables you are using in your study. You should list the dataset name, what it is, and the years you are looking at (if applicable), e.g. Census data on technician employment from 1999-2009. Do not add links or full citations here, but follow the Chicago Style reference system.

You should also explain *why* you are using the data. This can be as simple as "this measure of unionization is standard for this topic" or, if it is less obvious, "I include the number of books by university as a measure of capital". It does not have to be fancy but you and the reader should be able to understand why you are using some variable in your study.

If you have any tables or figures separate from your results you can cite them here, e.g. descriptive tables of the data you are using, such as minimum/maximum/median/modal values, the number of people impacted by a policy, the average number of years between policy changes, etc. You should cite the tables/figures in the text, e, e.g. "The median wage and employment of teachers from 2000-2005 is reported in Table 1". Your actual tables and figures should be collected at the end of the paper, in the order in which you cite them.

Suggested Length: 1 page double spaced.

5. Methods

This is where you state *how* you are testing/measuring your hypothesis. This is not where you state your results. Instead, explain what you are doing, e.g. explain the OLS regression you are using with the equation specified with your variables; explain the historical trend analysis you are using and what variables go on the X axis and Y axis; explain the t-test or other statistical test and how you are organizing the treatment and control groups for comparison and analysis; explain the survey methods you used when collecting survey data, etc. If you prefer, the Methods section can appear before the Data section.

Suggested Length: 1-2 pages double spaced.

6. Results

This is where you get to shine! You have done a lot of work; now tell us what you found. Be as specific as you can and make sure you cite any tables or figures which illustrate or list your findings.

Suggested Length: 1 -2 pages double spaced.

7. Discussion/ Conclusion

These sections can be the same or separate, depending on how much you have to say. This is where you get to talk about your results and why they matter, potential policy applications, what we might infer from a trends analysis, etc. Wrap up your findings and research question one last time in a neat bundle.

Suggested Length: 1 page double spaced.

8. References

The references should be formatted in the Chicago Style.

9. Tables/Figures

Tables and figures are listed in the order that you cite them, and they appear after the references. All the tables should be listed in order, and then all the figures.