

Portfolios

Students receiving credit for their participation in the SNaPP Lab through the GOVT 394 Directed Research option will be sign a grading contract that stipulates the topics and deadlines for various components of a portfolio. Everyone's portfolio will be slightly different depending on the nature of their interests and their stage in the research process, but the goal is to develop a set of materials and projects that showcase what students have accomplished as part of the lab.

Introductory Experience Fall Portfolio

The core of the fall portfolio is comprised of the assignments to be completed as part of the boot camp, which are described elsewhere. Those assignments are:

- Journal Report**
- Networked Literature Search Diagram**
- Two article summaries**
- Scholar or method report**
- Lab presentation**
- Canned Data Report (incl. code)**

You will be assigned appropriate literature to read and data to assess based on your initial interests.

In addition to those components, you will be assessed for your contribution to the group project to which you are assigned.

Peer Evaluation: The more senior members of the team will evaluate your engagement and contribution to the group project. The major components of this evaluation will be reliability, inquisitiveness, and initiative-taking.

Reflection Document: This is a one-two paragraph summary of what you have done as part of the group work that reflects on what you've learned and how your interests have evolved over the course of the semester.

Lab Attendance: Students are expected to regularly attend all 6:00 p.m. Wednesday night lab meetings and all boot camp sessions. You should email Prof. Settle if you are going to be absent; upon your third absence, you will need to schedule a meeting with Prof. Settle to discuss your commitment to the lab.

Intermediate Experience Fall Portfolio

A student with well-developed independent research interests and goals can customize the portfolio in that direction. Otherwise, the portfolio should be designed to narrow down and focus a student's interests with the goal of developing a solid idea for an independent project.

One-on-One Meetings with Prof. Settle (2)

You will meet twice with Prof. Settle to talk about your research interests and questions, once in the first half of the semester and once in the second half. You should email at least 48 hours in advance. The best time to meet is Wednesday afternoons, but if you are unavailable during this period, other times are available.

Blog Posts (2)

The purpose of the blog post is to practice writing for a non-academic audience on a research topic. The post should be approximately three-quarters of a page, single-spaced.

Literature Based: In consultation with Prof. Settle, you will be assigned or will select three or more articles that all speak to the same research question. You should be analytical in assessing the various answers to the research question, but the tone of your writing should not be overly technical.

News or Data Based: You have two options here. You can select some issue or controversy from the news, and discuss how social scientists would address the puzzle. Alternatively, you can present a method you have been using in your work and share it with the group.

Methods/Data Report (*individual or group data*)

The exact nature of this component will vary based on your data and your research stage, but you should anticipate producing a document with at least one table and at least one figure, accompanied by explanatory text, that demonstrates your proficiency in using R.

Individual Lab Presentation

You will talk about your individual research interests with the group, either during a "Five Minute Fiesta" or as a project proposal.

Short Form Research Proposal

You should follow the guidelines [here](#) for a Charles Center summer research grant proposal. You need to have a full draft of both the project proposal and the personal statement, as well as a cover letter to me about the things you would like for me to include in my cover letter endorsing your project.

Group Deliverable, Report and Presentation

You will work with your group on the final output of your group work, as well as a one-page memo summarizing what you have collectively accomplished. This memo should serve as the basis for a 15-minute presentation to the group about your progress.

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