PS 371 Final Paper Grading Rubric

Instructor: Shannon McGovern

1. **Introduction Section (15 Points)**
    a. (8-15 points) The introduction makes the reader care about the topic, clearly sets the paper into context, and includes a good causal research question with general, supporting information
    b. (4-7 points) Introduction was light in detail, or not intriguing; research question is vague or unclearly situated
    c. (0-3 points) Introduction was weak or vague, uses personal and not academic language, research question is unsupported; question is not causal or is inappropriate
2. **Literature Review Section (25 points)**
    a. (18-25 points) Literature review is well written, integrates all sources into a coherent narrative about the existing theoretical state of the field as well as identifying gaps
    b. (8-17 points) Formatting is weak, writing is informal or colloquial, but the uses sources to support the argument
    c. (3-7 points) Poor formatting, argument is loose without support and difficult to digest or only includes an article-by-article summary
    d. (0-2 points) Limited analysis, egregious formatting, missing a narrative
3. **Hypothesis (10 points)**
    a. (8-10 points) Includes at least one hypothesis that is pulled from the theoretical review
    b. (1-7 points) Includes at least one hypothesis but is not linked to the literature review
    c. (0 points) No hypothesis is included
4. **Methods Section (20 points)**
    a. Variable Description (15 points)
        i. (10-15 points) Was appropriately detailed to thoroughly explain the variables of interest, including mentioning the control variables and flowed easily into the explanation for the research design choice
        ii. (1-9 points) Lacking in descriptive detail about the variables, did not have a clear flow into the research design choice
    b. Research Design (5 points)
        i. (5 points) Research design is appropriate for the data described above and described accurately
        ii. (0 points) Research design was not appropriate for the data described above and/or it was not described accurately

5. **APA Format (20 points)**
    a. (15-20 points) Yes, minimal errors (none to 1 error)
    b. (8-14 points) Yes, minimal errors (between 2-3 errors)
    c. (1-7 points) Yes, significant number of errors (more than 3)
    d. (0 points) No, the paper did not use APA format
        i. *Example: if the student did not italicize the name of the journal in their citations, it would count as 1 mistake and not multiple mistakes since they made the same mistake on each source.
6. **Overall Formatting (10 points)**
    a. (5-10 points) Minimal spelling or grammatical errors
    b. (0-4 points) Significant spelling and/or grammatical errors that inhibit smooth review of the paper

*****END OF GRADING RUBRIC*****