

Instructions for the final assessment

The assessment for the course will be based on a term paper, to be developed individually. You may choose one of the following two formats for your paper:

- Survey essay: you survey a line of work on conditionals. You illustrate the relevant empirical observations and the theories which have been proposed to account for them; you explain the predictions made by the theories, and discuss the arguments that have been given for/against each theory. You are welcome to engage with the debate yourself, assessing the given arguments critically, and proposing new ones.
- Research essay: you try to make a small novel contribution to the literature. This could, e.g., take one of the following forms:
 - point out new data on a certain phenomenon, and use them to draw theoretical conclusions, or to argue for/against a certain account;
 - propose a new account of a problem, comparing it with existing ones;
 - extend an existing account to deal with new data;
 - make new observations about what a theory predicts, and assess these predictions critically;
 - study the relation between different accounts, to what extent one can be simulated by the other, etc.

A list of topics, along with suggestions for relevant literature, will be provided later during the course.

The paper will be judged based on the following three criteria.

- Clarity. The paper should have a clear aim, stated in the introduction, and a clear structure, also described in the introduction after the statement of the problem. Please make an effort to state the claims discussed in the paper as precisely and rigorously as possible.
- Competence. The paper should demonstrate command of the basic ideas, notions, methods, and techniques covered in the course. In particular, the technical presentation of the relevant theories and their predictions should be factually correct. In addition, the paper should show that you have engaged with the specific literature relevant to the topic at hand.
- Originality. The paper should either aim to make an original contribution to the literature, or present existing work in a novel way, explaining the connections between different contributions. Papers that engage critically with the arguments in the literature, or that put forward new empirical observations or new theoretical ideas are particularly welcome, provided they also meet the first two criteria.

Note that papers which are very unclear, or marred by fundamental factual mistakes will not lead to a passing grade.