

14.11 SPRING 2006
PUTTING SOCIAL SCIENCE TO THE TEST—FIELD EXPERIMENTS IN ECONOMICS
ASSIGNMENT # 3

Due on Friday March 17, 2006

The goal of this assignment is to write a research proposal for your experiment. This is not a trial run. The Human Subjects component of your research proposal must be submitted to COUHES on March 23.

Your research proposal should build on Assignment # 2 where appropriate, but it must include much greater detail about the experiment.

Here are your objectives:

1. Refine the statement of your hypothesis, such that it clearly expresses what you are testing with your experiment.
2. Explain carefully how your hypotheses map into your experiment. What set of results would support the hypothesis? What is the null hypothesis?
3. Expand the literature review if needed. State how your project relates to existing papers and how it adds to the literature.
4. Research design. Describe your experiment in detail. You must address the following points
 - a. Where and how you will get your subjects?
 - b. What sample size is needed? You must detail your power calculations
 - c. What is your treatment?
 - d. What kind of data you will collect/record and how? (Because of COUHES, you ideally do not want to be able to identify individual subjects in your data.)
 - e. What dates do you expect to conduct the treatment(s)? Bear in mind that COUHES approval should not be expected prior to April 13.

(You need to hand in only one memo per group).