

## ST 432 Individual Projects Information

### Possible Topic Choices:

Review of a topic: pick something related to your interests that has to do with sampling populations or surveys,  
or Computer Simulation to study properties of an estimator for a particular sampling model,  
or Carry out a pilot study of a small survey or sampling investigation on a topic of interest to you, or Some other topic you and I both agree upon.

All topics have to be approved by me. I want you to choose something of interest and benefit to you. It does have to be closely related to the general course goals though. (for example a topic on survival analysis would be too far removed from finite population sampling theory or survey design)

**Timetable:** These are **hard deadlines** as you will receive feedback at each stage. Penalties for lateness will apply. All material handed in has to be typed.

- 1. Title and Preliminary Half Page Description Feb 3, 2009**
- 2. Rough Outline of Paper March 17, 2009**
- 3. Complete Rough Draft Paper April 7, 2009**
- 4. Complete Final Paper May 1, 2009**

You will learn more by handing in a rough draft first and then having a chance to revise and submit a final version after getting my comments. You will be graded both on content and writing style. Both the rough draft and the final paper will be a component of the grade with most weight on the final.

### Structure:

Your paper will contain the following elements:  
A title page with a detailed abstract or summary  
A Table of Contents  
A Set of Key Words  
An Introduction  
A Series of Sections which give the details  
A Discussion and Suggestions for Future Research  
Literature Cited  
Tables & Figures

### Length and Substance:

I require a minimum of 12-15 pages of text (double spaced) with extra pages of Tables, Figures, Literature Cited etc. This is a substantial task so do not wait until the last minute to get started. This can be a very valuable experience for you as writing is neglected in our undergraduate programs. Employers always state that it is a critical skill they desire in prospective employees. It is also very valuable if you are thinking of going to graduate school.