**MAE 4053 Final Paper**

Per the instructions on Canvas, each student was free to choose a final paper topic that fit under one of three general course topics:

1. Analysis using ILSA data
2. Conduct a missing data analysis
3. Design a survey and sampling design

**Criteria for assessing the paper**

The overall aim is that the exam paper should be an independent and complete report of your analysis to answer a well-defined research question. The paper is based the proposal that was submitted around midterm.

Criteria characterizing **a high-quality paper** are

- Paper formatting and page limits of the paper as required (2000 to 2500 words, paper is formatted, cited, and referenced according to APA style)
- There is a good flow and structure in the paper, e.g.
    o concepts are introduced and defined
    o claims and conclusions are substantiated with supporting literature
    o the text is well-written, accurate, to-the-point, and concise
- The paper provides a relevant description of the background and purpose.
- In general, it should be clear to a reader how the analyses have been done, but not at a level of detail that would permit a complete reproducibility (including the R scripts etc).
- A reader should have a basic understanding of the data, including characteristics of the sample.
- Where appropriate, the statistical analyses are clearly but concisely described.
- Where appropriate, the analysis should be conducted correctly (i.e., an appropriate method is selected, sampling weights are used where required, correct distributional assumptions are made or an explanation and justification of other choices are provided, plausible values are handled correctly, variance is estimated appropriately)
- Reasonable conclusions that result from a well-implemented analysis are drawn.

To earn a pass-mark (grade E or better) the report should include a framework, a brief description of the core procedures undertaken in the development, presentation of (some) results from all stages in the process and a discussion providing a minimal argument for the conclusions.

For the grade C or better the report is regarded as complete. The report is clear, well- and reasonably-argued, methods are correctly implemented, and conclusions are justified by the methods and data.

For the grade A the paper should be of an outstanding quality – both in terms of well-executed analyses, effective presentation and critical discussion. All criteria listed above should be fully met for this grade.

The following standard scale will be used to assign grades:

A – Excellent

B – Very good

C – Good

D – Satisfactory

E – Sufficient

F – Fail